



Guidelines for GSME Day and Residential Camps

Effective: June 11, 2022 until further notice.

This message outlines the GSME guidelines for our 2022 camp season, based on CDC and American Camping Association recommendations for summer camps.

Girl Scouts of Maine (GSME) may modify this guidance from time to time as circumstances change. If the State of Maine Guidelines are updated and are stricter than those outlined in this document, then the State of Maine Guidelines are to be followed.

Camps like ours, with many campers who may or may not be fully vaccinated, will continue to use layered multiple prevention strategies to help protect campers, and slow the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. We know everyone is excited to get outside, play, try new skills, and enjoy camp friendships. Together we can make that happen!

**Guidelines may change over the summer; we will keep families posted on any changes.*

PRE ARRIVAL TO CAMP

As parents, you play an integral role by making thoughtful and smart decisions in the weeks prior to camp. Following these guidelines and keeping your camper healthy ensures a healthy start for our entire community. Families will be asked to complete the Camp InTouch *Pre-Arrival Screening form*. Please fill this out 24-48 hours prior to their arrival at camp.

During pre-camp, we ask that your camper chooses only low-risk or “COVID-safe” behaviors to limit all exposures. COVID vaccines are impressive, proving well over 90% effective but they are not 100% effective. For these reasons, even if your child is vaccinated, we ask you to continue to follow our guidelines, being intentional about what you do prior to arrival at camp.

TESTING

All camp program participants (regardless of vaccination status) are required to have a negative COVID test. **Our camps will be administering COVID tests when campers check in on their first day of camp.* We recommend that your camper take a COVID test at home prior to coming to camp to help alleviate COVID positive individuals from being sent back home.

CAMPER DROP OFF AND PICK UP

All staff and family members are asked to wear masks during drop off and pick up times.

Drop off: Check-in with the nurse and other camp staff will be done as drive-through. Only campers will leave the car. Please feel free to get out of the car and HUG your camper good-bye. *This is the practice at most Maine Summer Camps.*

Closing ceremony on Friday at 2:00 p.m.-2:45 p.m. At this time, we would like to invite families to attend the closing ceremony on the last day of camp. ***We require all family members in attendance to wear masks.*** Please arrive between 1:30 p.m.-1:50 p.m. More

details about the closing ceremony will be sent out to you in the camper packets.

Pick up: Parents can check out their campers immediately after the ceremony. If you do not attend Closing Ceremony, families can pick up their campers between 2:45 p.m.-3:15 p.m.

CAMP LOGISTICS

General Masking Rules:

Masks are optional during the week for our campers and staff. We will be supportive of any camper or staff person who chooses to wear a mask (however, masks are not to be worn during waterfront activities, eating, drinking, and sleeping).

Unit Groups:

Campers will be assigned to a unit group with other campers in their program. They will be with this group during some of their activities but not during Trail Master or girl choice programming.

Lodging:

Girls will sleep head to toe in cabins and tents. Heads will be more than 6 feet apart. Extra attention to ventilation will be taken. Ask any girl who has slept in a tent before – ventilation is not a problem!

Meals:

Meals will be served with girls indoors and outdoors under shelters. They will be seated with their units. Meals will be served family style.

Activities:

Our popular activities and programs will be offered. Plan to enjoy boating, swimming, archery, outdoor skills, challenge courses and rock climbing, arts and crafts, drama, cooking, hatchet throwing, and all the things you love about camp!

Girl Choice:

We will be bringing back girl choice activities this summer. Campers will choose individual activities.

All Camp and Evening Programs:

During large group events, activities may be facilitated to allow unit groups to be distant from one another.

Handwashing/Sanitizing:

Even though it is proven that COVID does not transmit easily or at all on surfaces, any kind of viral transmission causes undue stress in a congregated community. Our goal is to be as healthy as we can be, considering not only COVID but also all other transmissible viruses and diseases. With that in mind, we will continue enhanced cleaning and sanitizing, especially of high touch areas.

Personal hygiene will definitely be a priority this summer, including assessing camper skill and instructing campers on proper handwashing and use of sanitizer.

Transportation:

This applies to the Pondicherry Horseback Riding program and several Natarzwi trips. When campers are transported in camp vans, windows will be opened slightly for ventilation and spacing will be considered.

Immunization:

GSME staff are required to get vaccinated prior to their arrival at camp, which will further limit transmission opportunities.

What happens if the Maine CDC increases COVID restrictions?

We want your child to be safe. We will follow the Maine CDC guidelines. That may mean that we will need to go back to wearing mask indoors and outdoors. That may also mean we do cohort programming instead of girl choice programming. We will continue to adjust our guidelines and keep our families informed.

What happens if there is a case of COVID?

If a COVID case is suspected or confirmed: parents will be asked to pick up their child within 12 hours. The camps do not have the capacity to isolate sick campers. The camper's unit will be further monitored and all camp parents in the current session will be notified – for girls without symptoms and in other units; the families can decide to either pick up their child or keep them at camp for the remainder of their stay.

Will all of these precautions guarantee that my child will not be exposed to COVID-19?

The simple answer is no; we cannot guarantee your child will avoid exposure to COVID-19 this summer. Although we can tell you that our intentional, structured and controlled setting with testing, small groups, appropriate physical distancing is likely to be a safer environment for your daughter than other summer options.

We will do everything we can to try to keep our whole community virus free.

We have a WONDERFUL summer in store! We feel very well prepared with the layers of protocols and safety strategies outlined above, and we know your girls can't wait for the opportunity to safely live, play, and grow this summer with their friends!

Together, we can do this!

Treasa "Tree" Wheeler (Natarzwi)
twheeler@gsmaine.org | 207-299-0089

Jessica "Silver Fox" Steele (Pondicherry)
jsteele@gsmaine.org | 607-299-4204