

Camping Learning Plan for Volunteers

An integral part of Girl Scouting is the outdoor experience. Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts (GSEMA) provides volunteers with training opportunities to enhance the outdoor experience and keep youths safe. Troop camping requires one volunteer who has completed Outdoor Basics or Troop Camping Training and another approved adult volunteer certified in First Aid/CPR (FA/CPR). The outdoor trainings are sequenced and must be completed in order by the aspiring camping trained volunteer, beginning with [Going Places with Girl Scouts](#). [First Aid/ CPR](#) sessions are offered separately.

If I sign up for:	It will take:	I will learn:	I can then:
Outdoor Basics: Online	90 minutes	Outdoor Basics: Online Learn how to assess your troop's readiness for camping as well as GSEMA safety procedures. Explore ways to ensure a girl-led experience, packing tips, and how you can spend your time at camp. Going Places with Girl Scouts is a pre-requisite. <i>Additional training required.</i> This course serves as the pre-requisite training needed for Outdoor Basics: Cooking.	Take Outdoor Basics: Cooking, which will then allow my troop/group to stay in lodges.
Outdoor Basics: Cooking	6 hours	Outdoor Basics: Cooking Learn more about leading a successful camping trip. Gain packing tips, camp activities, fire-building skills, and an understanding of basic cook out techniques during an in-person session with well-seasoned veterans. <i>Is additional training required?</i> Yes, if you want to take your youths camping in tents you will need to complete Outdoor Basics: Camping.	Take troops/groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camping in a Lodge* or Cabin • Participate in council-sponsored Brownie camping programs^ • Attend a town encampment staying in a lodge^
Outdoor Basics: Camping	18 hours (overnight)	Outdoor Basics: Camping Learn how youths can plan and carry out a camping trip using the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. You will learn advanced cooking methods, campfire programming, nighttime activities and risk management procedures for camping out overnight with youths. <i>No additional training is required</i> for camping with youths.	Take troops/groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camping in a tent, cabin, lodge, yurt • Participate in Brownie Camping and Junior camping programs. • Attend a town encampment
*Lodge is any building with a stove and flush toilets.			
^If necessary, you will be partnered with a troop who has a Tent Trained Troop Camper. This does not qualify you to take troops tent camping.			
These courses are offered in a limited time frame during the spring and fall. We recommend taking Troop Camping Skills at least 8-weeks prior to the troop/group camping trip. Because the knowledge and safety procedures that are taught at Troop Camping Skills are specific to GSEMA, no other trainings or experiences may be substituted for these trainings. After attending these trainings, a volunteer holds the qualifications for Troop Camping and is not required to renew or re-attend training.			

Camping Learning Plan for Volunteers

Town Encampments and Large Group Camping Experiences		
What is an encampment?	An Encampment is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day event with a large group (50 or more youths), and/or 1 or more overnights involving the majority of troops in a service unit or the majority of girls at a particular program level (50 or more youths). • Has an organized program (theme) that is planned by and with youths • Is planned under the auspices of a trained Encampment Director and their team 	
Are there training requirements to plan an encampment?	Services units must have a trained Encampment Director to begin planning for a town encampment To become an Encampment Director , one must first: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a registered adult member who has completed the criminal background check • Have participated in at least one (1) previous encampment or council sponsored group camping event (e.g., GSEMA Brownie Camping and Junior camping programs) • Have completed GSEMA Troop Camping Skills – Tent or Outdoor Basics: Camping • Be at least 21 years of age • Have completed GSEMA Encampment Director Training 	
How do I become an Encampment Director?	GSEMA Encampment Director Training (2 hours, online) Encampment Director Training will prepare you and your volunteer team to run a town encampment. The training will share director requirements and responsibilities including: assessing service unit readiness, planning timelines, safety policies and procedures, youth-led planning, program ideas and property information. Complete 9 months prior to encampment.	<i>Upon completion you will be authorized to plan and run a town encampment.</i>
Camping Forms & Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety Activity Checkpoints • GSEMA's Volunteer Essentials • GSEMA Safety Approval Form • Property Reservation Form 	

For questions on the above trainings, please contact GSEMA's Customer Care team at customercare@gsema.org.