



2018 Camp Scherman FAQs

Does my camper have to be a Girl Scout to attend camp?

All girls are welcome at camp, regardless of their scouting background. During the camp registration process girls who are not already registered as Girl Scouts will be asked to register and pay the \$35 membership before they attend camp. All campers will have opportunities to earn Girl Scout badges and recognitions through a variety of fun and meaningful activities. [Sign up for camp today](#) to see what Girl Scouting is all about!

Is financial aid available?

Yes - financial aid "camperships" are awarded to campers based on financial need and are available for summer resident camp. Applications are available at girlscoutsoc.org/campinfo and must be submitted by May 10, 2018. Each applicant will be considered for one resident camp session. Families are asked to provide the maximum dollar amount they can contribute for camp. This amount is based on what a family can afford and must be provided with the campership application for consideration.

Please submit only one application per girl. Provided all application requirements are met, awarding rules are the same for every applicant, without regard to race, ethnicity, age, special needs or socioeconomic status. Campers selected to receive a campership will be notified of their award via email by May 24, 2018. Please check your SPAM folder for communications.

****Note: Any unpaid balances from the previous camp year must be paid before a camper may apply for financial aid.****

Can my camper be in the same unit as her friend or sister?

Yes - each camper may request to be in a unit with one special friend of similar age/grade level and abilities. To qualify, friends must register for the same unit and include each other's name in the "camp buddy" field during online registration. We cannot guarantee that they will be placed together if the "camp buddy" field is not completed.

Can my troop sign up together and be in the same unit?

We guarantee that two girls (buddies) can be placed together, but we cannot guarantee that an entire troop will be placed together.

Will we be placed on a waiting list if our session choice is full?

Please contact Customer Care at customercare@girlscoutsoc.org if you would like to be placed on a camp wait list.



What will my camper do while she is at camp?

At Camp Scherman, there's a fun adventure waiting for every girl. Our camp is girl led. After girls arrive at camp, they have the opportunity to share ideas with each other and their counselors and together the girls plan their camp session. In addition to any session-specific activities, girls can choose to participate in traditional camp activities like archery, the low ropes course, swimming in the pool, canoeing, kayaking, outdoor cooking, and arts and crafts.

Will camp staff sleep in the same cabin as my camper?

For younger campers in grades 2-3, at least two camp staff members sleep in the same cabin as campers. For campers in 4th grade and up, camp staff sleeps in separate cabins close by and centrally located to the campers' cabins.

Is transportation to camp provided?

Bus transportation is provided for summer resident camp only. Troop leaders or parents/guardians must provide transportation to and from weekend camp. Only adults with current Girl Scout membership and a cleared background check are permitted to drive girls not related to them. Transportation to and from summer camp is provided by experienced mountain drivers through a charter bus company. Girls look forward to riding on the Camp Scherman bus with their buddies.

With the help of bus chaperones, girls have a supervised ride up to camp. Bus transportation is included in your registration fees, and details are provided with the camper packet. Buses leave promptly at 8:00 am; however, **we ask that you arrive by 7:00 am** and bring your completed paperwork to allow ample time for check-in. If special circumstances require that you drive directly to camp, please contact us at customer care@girlscoutsoc.org.

Can I communicate with my camper while she is at camp?

Yes – your camper would love to hear from you! You can send letters and packages, or you can sign up to send one-way emails to your camper (fees apply). Information on Bunk1 will be included in the camp packet. These emails are printed and delivered daily with the rest of camp mail. NOTE: At this time, we do not have the capability for campers to send outgoing emails. We encourage all campers to write a letter home. You may want to provide your camper with a notepad, pen and stamped envelopes with your home address pre-written on them. You can also hide notes or non-food treats in your camper's duffel bag or use the "camp mailbox" that is available at drop-off to have letters delivered on any date you select during the camp session (postage not required). Using Bunk1, we will share daily photos from camp with you through a secure online service. Viewing the pictures is a free option for camper families. Please note it is not possible for us to capture photos of every girl each day or multiple photos of every girl, but we do our best to take as many photos as possible. If you have designated during the registration process that your camper cannot have her photo taken for publicity purposes, she will not appear in the daily photos. More information is available in your registration packet.



Can my camper call home?

Camp phones are used for business and emergencies only. If you are concerned because of a homesick letter you may have received or need to get in touch with your camper, you can call the Girl Scouts of Orange County Irvine office at 949.461.8800 and follow the prompt to connect with Camp Scherman. You can also email our Camp Director, Erin Johnson, at ejohnson@girlscoutsoc.org. We will check on your camper and have camp Administrative staff follow up with you. Homesick letters are not uncommon the first day. We find that by the second day, campers have adjusted to the environment and become busy and happy campers!

Do you permit camp visitors?

Camp visitors are not permitted during resident camp. There are monthly Camp Info Nights where you can meet the staff and ask any questions you have about camp. Learn about upcoming [Camp Info Nights](#) on our website.

Is Camp Scherman a member of the American Camp Association (ACA)?

Yes. Camp Scherman is fully accredited by ACA. To be accredited, a camp must comply with over 250 standards that include health and safety, as well as program quality. A team of ACA representatives visits Camp Scherman every five years to ensure our compliance and renew our accreditation.

What kind of health facilities and procedures does Camp Scherman have?

The camp has a health center, stocked with first aid equipment and over the counter (OTC) treatments. Camp counselors are safety trained, and each unit has a well-stocked first aid kit. A registered nurse and/or EMT are on site 24 hours a day and a doctor is on call in Temecula. The Fire Department and Paramedics are 5-8 minutes down the road and the nearest hospital (Hemet, Palm Desert, or Temecula) is 45 minutes by car and 30 minutes by ambulance.

What if my camper needs to take medication?

Camp Scherman has a health center stocked with the most commonly used over-the-counter medications. Please do not send Tylenol, cough syrup, etc. The Health Center Supervisor will distribute medication as needed. If your camper needs to take prescribed medication, it must come to camp in the original container with her name on it and a physician's authorization must accompany the medication. More Information will be available in the camper packet.

In light of the correlation between Reye's syndrome and aspirin ingestion, it is camp policy that no aspirin or aspirin products be administered at camp. If it is medically necessary for your child to receive aspirin, a physician's authorization must accompany the medication.

What if my camper has special needs?

Camp Scherman is a fully-integrated camp. Designated staff will be present to help the camper join her unit's fun activities, but they are not nurses. Campers must be able to take care of their own bathing, restroom, and feeding



requirements. Staff can assist with reminders to use the restroom and provide simple help at meal times. Parents are asked to fill out registration information and provide as much detailed information as possible about their camper's special needs so she can be successful during her stay. Every attempt will be made to place campers with special needs in units with campers close in age. The Camp Director or Health Center Supervisor may follow up with parents requesting more information once applications are received.

What if my camper has food allergies and/or dietary restrictions?

If your camper has food allergies or dietary restrictions (such as vegetarian, vegan, or gluten-free), please be sure to indicate this in the "special needs" field when registering your camper online. You will then be contacted by the Camp Director, Health Center Supervisor and/or Food Supervisor to discuss any allergies or dietary restrictions, the type, and reactions. We are able to accommodate most food allergies and dietary restrictions. We also have a successful system in place to limit cross contamination and ensure that safe and healthy meals are provided. Camp Scherman is not a peanut/tree nut-free camp but we are "peanut/tree nut-aware." We do have respect for each individual camper and their needs. We are mindful about camper sensitivity and reactions to peanut/tree nuts and residues, including if a product is manufactured in a plant that processes them.

What skills and training do camp staff have and how are they screened?

All Camp Scherman staff members (paid and volunteer) are over the age of 18 and professionally trained, energetic and caring adults, who are chosen for their strong character, understanding of girls, love for the outdoors, and special skills. All staff are required to participate in multiple trainings held in Orange County, as well as on-site intensive pre-camp training, covering topics that include, but are not limited to: safety and emergency procedures, overall health and safety of campers, youth and leadership development, camping and outdoor skills, positive communication, Girl Scout programs, as well as handling camper concerns such as homesickness and camper conflicts. All counselors go through an application process, including an interview and written references. All staff members (paid and volunteer) are background screened and required to abide by Girl Scouts of Orange County's personnel policies and sign an ethical code of conduct.

In addition to counselors, what special instructors are at camp?

We have staff who are specifically trained, certified (and then skill tested) for their specific job. Many have years of experience in a particular area. All lifeguards are certified by the Red Cross in Lifeguarding, First Aid, and CPR. The program staff consist of Riding, Archery, Nature, Low Ropes Course and Arts and Crafts staff, all of whom have years of experience in their positions.

Can I sponsor a girl to attend camp?

Yes! Your donation, in any amount, helps girls who may not otherwise have the opportunity to attend camp and create lifelong memories. You can donate online at girlscoutsoc.org/giftcamp.