



Camp Scherman

Family Weekend Camps 2021

Covid-19 Protocols & FAQ

****This is a living document and its contents may change as guidelines evolve.****

Based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Girl Scouts of Orange County (GSOC), Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA), and the American Camp Association (ACA), we have made changes to camp operations for weekend camps in 2021, the most significant of which are described below. Though this looks different than a typical weekend, the feeling is the same. We are committed to keeping the camp experience as consistent and magical as possible.

Please note that coming to Weekend Family Camp is a commitment to the safety and well-being of our sisterhood of Girl Scouts. We respectfully asking you to partner with us by limiting your family's contacts for two weeks prior to your weekend camp; this means not interacting nor traveling with those outside of your immediate household. Camp staff are being asked to follow the same safety and health tracking prior to arriving to camp for each weekend. We are all in this together!

The protocols detailed below are designed to give families a general idea of camp operations and are subject to change. We will continue to monitor this very fluid situation and make updates regularly.

Who can participate? Participants will be restricted to those in a shared household. A household is defined as those living under the same roof. Weekend capacity will be much smaller than normal (half of normal capacity), allowing for increased distancing and sanitizing.

What are the accommodations? Up to two households will stay in a semi-private cabin, each in their own room/side, allowing for a safe distance between households. Each household will have their own shower and toilet. There is a shared but separated sink area. Photos and an orientation video will provide further insight upon registration.

Can we camp there instead? Households can opt to bring their RV or camping tent should they prefer. Please keep in mind that there are no hook ups at Camp Scherman. RVs will stay in the parking lot for the duration of the weekend.

How do we get there? Family camp participants will need to provide their own transportation to and from Camp Scherman. Directions will be provided once you are registered.

Are face masks required at all times? All participants and staff are required to wear a mask at all times unless they are in their own cabins/sleeping area or participating in water activities (swimming, or boating).

What other COVID-19 safety measures will be taken? All participants and staff will work to maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet from other groups. Cabins and buildings are cleaned and sanitized prior to the weekend camp and again at the conclusion of every weekend camp. During the day, staff will also frequently sanitize high touch surfaces such as door handles. It is expected that all participants and staff will wash hands and/or use hand sanitizer in between activities. Additional hand washing and sanitizing stations will be located at every living unit and program area. Health screenings and protocols related to any positive testing for COVID-19 or suspected symptoms are detailed further in this FAQ.

Will there be health screenings? Prior to arriving at camp, each camper will be required to complete a daily health screening and record findings on the provided form. This screening will require the following for each family camp participant: temperature check, monitoring for symptoms, and reporting if any person in your immediate household has been exposed to COVID-19. Please be sure to bring the completed pre-camp health screening form(s) with you for check-in.

How will Check-In work? You are invited to arrive any time after 5PM on Friday. Check-in will take place at the Camp Scherman front gate and 101 parking lot. Please follow the directions of the camp staff as they direct vehicles through the check-in process. Families are asked to remain in their vehicles and masked. Camp staff will be present at the parking lot to start the check-in process and address any questions at 5PM.

Once you arrive, everyone in the vehicle will undergo a temperature screening and your health screening form will be reviewed. During the screening, our camp staff will wear masks and gloves. The only information that will be recorded is that your household passed the screening.

If anyone in the vehicle is found to have a temperature of 100.4 or higher, is showing symptoms of COVID-19, or answers “yes” to any questions on the screening questionnaire, those in the vehicle will be unable to attend Family Weekend Camp. If you know that you or a member of the household cannot pass the screening, please do not come to camp; we will refund your family camp registration fee.

After passing the screening, you may proceed through the rest of check-in.

What food and beverage are included? Please note, no dinner will be provided on Friday evening so be sure to have dinner before you arrive or bring one with you prior to your arrival (any time after 5PM). Four meals will be provided for the participants during the Family Camp weekend, starting with breakfast on Saturday and ending with breakfast on Sunday. Meals will be cooked in our commercial kitchen by our kitchen staff. To avoid mingling groups in the dining hall, food will be transported out to the groups in camp or to their cabins and served by staff experienced in food handling. Every precaution will be taken to prevent cross-contamination for special diets and allergies, just as it is done in the dining hall. Plenty of food will be provided, including healthy snacks during the day to keep everyone’s energy up.

All participants will bring their own water bottle and are able to fill it several times a day. Drinking fountains and designated water stations around camp and individual units will be used for filling water bottles only. They will have appropriate signage and be monitored by staff.

What kind of camp traditions and activities will be available and how will they be COVID-safe? We want to keep everyone safe and healthy and still create the magic and community that makes camp special. All participants will have the opportunity to attend a campfire program led by camp staff and sing songs and perform skits. Households will sit together and be seated according to physical distancing guidelines. Gathering areas will be disinfected between each use and all participants and staff will wear masks during the campfire program.

Program areas will be limited to 2-3 households at each program area. Precautions for specific activities include:

Archery - Each participant will be assigned their own quiver of arrows to use over the course of their archery time. Bows and arrows will be sanitized between uses.

Arts & Crafts - Paintbrushes used by each group will be rinsed and placed in a sanitizing bucket to be recycled back into use for the next day. All other shared supplies will be wiped down between uses. Limited numbers of participants will be able to participate in arts/crafts at any one time and activities will take place outside whenever possible. Activities that require shared equipment (such as magnifying glasses, water testing kits, etc.) can be used by only one group at a time and will be scheduled so that equipment and areas can be sanitized between groups.

Climbing Tower/ Low Ropes Course - Limited participants will be at the climbing tower and or low ropes activities. Activities will be scheduled so that equipment and areas can be sanitized between groups. Please note that there are age restrictions on the climbing wall.

Swimming and Boating - Limited numbers of participants will be permitted in the pool or boating at one time. Waterfront activities will be scheduled so that equipment and areas can be sanitized between groups.

What are cleaning protocols like at camp? In addition to our already robust cleaning program, we will add additional sanitizing steps. Cabins, indoor facilities (bathrooms, activity spaces), and buses will be sanitized several times per day. Campers will also be required to wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer between activities. We ask that participants continue to contribute to the cleanliness of camp by sweeping and wiping surfaces with disinfectant prior to leaving camp at the end of the weekend. Gloves and disposable masks will be provided.

What happens if someone experiences COVID symptoms while at camp? Participants who refuse to be screened at arrival, who display COVID symptoms, or who answer yes to any of the health screening questions will not be allowed to attend camp.

To investigate any suspected symptoms of COVID-19 that appear during the camp weekend, staff will use full personal protective equipment (PPE) including N95 mask, gloves, face shields, and plastic gown. If no emergency or urgent care is required, participants showing symptoms will isolate in their designated cabin, while their household prepares to depart camp as soon as possible.

GSOC and Camp Scherman recommends that any participant exhibiting symptoms be seen by a health care provider and requests tests for any participant or staff who displays symptoms.

If a participant and their household or any staff member is sent home with symptoms, the other participants present at camp that weekend will be notified. If a participant/household or staff has tested positive for COVID-19, the staff member and participants present for that weekend will be contacted (the name of the individual will be withheld for confidentiality). Camp Scherman and GSOC will cooperate with the public health officials as needed to reach out to anyone who may have been exposed.

A 14-day Camp Closure will be implemented if any participant or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.

How will Check-Out work? Check-out time on Sunday will be by 11AM. Camp staff will check out each household cabin and provide all participants with a Camp Scherman participation patch. Participants are expected to have packed their belongings and cleaned their cabin prior to their departure of the property.

How will COVID precautions really effect the camp experience? Family Weekend Camp attendees will be able to participate in all camp activities that are open for their age and Girl Scout level. All campers will have the opportunity to shoot archery, hike, canoe on the lake, and much more during their weekend at camp. The biggest change is that they will not be participating in large group activities nor eating in the dining hall together.

What is the refund policy? Please contact customer-care@girlscoutsoc.org to request a refund in writing.

Additional COVID resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/summer-camps.html>

Camp Operations Guide Summer 2020:

<https://www.acacamps.org/resource-library/coronavirus/camp-business/camp-operations-guide-summer-2020>