

Traveling Day Camp Basic Information for Applicants

Dates: Our staff orientation (at our resident camp) runs from May 24-June 3. Sessions with campers runs from June 6 to August 12. Post camp is August 13 and 14. Staff leave on the evening of the 14th or on August 15.

Who We Are: We are a Girl Scout traveling day camp which works in communities throughout Southeast Alaska. Each week camp is located in different community. Communities we bring this program to have, for the most part, only basic facilities. What I mean by basic is that the community will have a school, a church, a store (which is open only during limited hours) and a tribal building. Communities often do not have running water or flush toilets in every house. Our staff generally stays in the same building they host camp in. They sleep on the floor and may not have amenities like a shower, internet or a kitchen for the week.



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What We Do: We are a general day camp with community service components. That means we do lots of leadership activities and camper designed community service. We also have songs and games, arts and crafts, environmental education, and STEM activities.

Our program is designed to help girls develop courage, confidence and character through the challenges of the program while in their community environment. We are a camp that believes that our staff's most important job is to create and facilitate experiences where girls can develop character in a safe environment. As a staff member, you are an integral part of this experience.

Our camp sessions are 5 days long. In many of our communities, girls attend camp year after year. This means it is critical that our staff create and deliver inventive, engaging and unique programming for girls each community. Staff typically work 8 hours a day delivering camp programming although not always in one solid time period. In many communities the camp day may be split into different sections with girls going home between periods.

Counselors: Our counselors work in pairs to manage an entire camp group of between 10-70 girls. Counselors are with campers during check in, meals and check out. Counselors are expected to be with their campers at all times of day and evening when camp is in session. You are expected to be with campers and aware of their whereabouts and behavior from the time they get up get to camp to the time they go home.

Your Time: Many applicants underestimate the time, energy and dedication it takes to be an invaluable staff person. You will get a lot out of working at camp, now though, it is important that you know what you will be required to put into it. We believe that camp is for the camper. To us, that means:



- Your camp life, days and decisions will revolve around what is best for camp and your campers, not around you.
- You will sacrifice some personal comfort, control, decision making and autonomy as you prioritize camp and your campers
 - You will work long days full of physical activity. They will be full of fun and adventure with your girls but you need to be there when girls need you.
 - You will need to adjust what you do and how you do it to best serve individual campers. This includes how you facilitate program, speak with

campers and implement behavior management techniques

- You will have honest coaching conversations with your supervisor who will give you guidance and instruction on how to move forward when you fail or are struggling. This requires that you approach situations humbly and with no ego
- You put effort and care into all areas of camp, even those parts that seem unimportant like paperwork

Working at Camp: It's different from other jobs. At our camp, this means:

- We focus on building relationships and community living. This means we stop drama when it happens between campers. We also don't participate in starting or continuing drama among staff. In fact, it is your professional obligation to deal with issues directly and honestly by having fact based conversations.
- You will have a limited amount of time off each day (the hours of which you won't get to pick). This means that during your time off you will need to prioritize what you do so that you can come back to work with focused energy. For example, you may decide that taking a nap is more important than a shower or calling friends or family.
- You will have less control around the food you eat. It is your responsibility to provide your own food. You will purchase your food in the communities where you host camp, but there may not be the same selection of foods available in every community.
- You will have less control over many aspects of your life including what you do when and your personal space.

- You will live, work and play with your co-workers. Many staff become friends with other counselors. However, staff are expected to prioritize and maintain their professional relationships during the season.
- We do not allow drinking, smoking or the use of drugs while you are at camp.
- You will have access to the world outside camp on a limited and inconsistent basis. This means contact with friends and family, trips into town for supplies and access to your email/social media. Letters and packages sent through the mail and will arrive approximately every 4 weeks. You will carry a work cell phone with you at all times. This phone is for camp use only. Your personal cell phone will likely not work in your camp region. You can expect to have access to the internet only sporadically throughout the summer.
- You will be physically active all day long. Every program area at camp has a physical aspect to it from playing a running game to hiking up and down trails. We also expect our staff to actively engage with campers during every program. This means participating in activities as well as getting on the same physical level as campers. This means sitting cross legged on the ground, kneeling and squatting depending on the activity.

