

2026 Girl Scouts of Citrus Summer Camp

Important Information

ACA accreditation

Mah-Kah-Wee Program Center is proudly accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA). This accreditation means we meet or exceed industry standards in areas such as safety, program quality, staff training, emergency preparedness, and overall camper well-being. ACA accreditation is a voluntary, peer-reviewed process that demonstrates our commitment to providing a safe, enriching, and high-quality camp experience for every camper.

Birthdays

Birthdays are a fun celebration at camp. Special arrangements for giving a present can be made in advance and dropped off at check-in. Campers will celebrate their birthdays with their fellow campers and staff by being recognized during one of the meals with a special treat and a big birthday song on their special day. Please make us aware if your camper does not celebrate birthdays.

Buddy Requests

Each camper attends Summer Camp as an individual, to make new friends, and grow in their independence and self-confidence. If they have a buddy they would like to attend camp with, they can submit a buddy request during registration. We will make every effort to accommodate your camper's buddy request.

Camp Fees – What's Included

Summer camp fees cover everything your camper needs for a fun, safe, and memorable experience. This includes lodging (for overnight campers), all program activities and supplies, meals and snacks, supervision by trained camp staff, and access to camp facilities. Fees also support behind-the-scenes essentials such as registration platforms, safety resources, program materials, and maintaining high-quality camp spaces. Each camper will receive a camp t-shirt, camp patch, and Girl Scout badge for attending camp. When you register your camper, please be sure to choose their t-shirt size on the online registration form.

Meals and snacks: While attending Summer Camp, all meals and daily snacks will be provided beginning with dinner on the day they check in and ending with lunch on the day they check out*. If your camper has any special dietary needs or allergies, please list them in CampDoc and contact customercare@citrus-gs.org within two weeks of submitting your camp registration to ensure we can provide accommodations. For more information, please see the “Meals and snacks” section of this document.

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**Please note that Day Camp includes breakfast, lunch, and snacks. Dinner is not included.*

Field Trips: Field trips are an exciting and enriching part of the summer camp experience! This summer, we have selected camp field trips that are designed to complement our program goals by providing campers with opportunities to explore new environments, build independence, and create lasting memories with their peers. Each camp session will include a unique field trip experience. For more information, please see the “Field Trips” section of this document.

Camp Open Houses

We have two Open Houses scheduled this Spring. Open houses are scheduled to allow families an opportunity to visit the campgrounds, meet the staff, take a tour, and hear about the opportunities that are available for the campers this Summer.

While there is no cost, everyone must register using the [Girl Scouts of Citrus Events Calendar](#).

Below are the dates and locations:

- Sunday, March 29, 2026, 2:00pm – 4:00pm at Mah-Kah-Wee Program Center
- Saturday, April 18, 2026, 4:00pm – 6:00pm at Mah-Kah-Wee Program Center

We do not have an open house scheduled for Riverpoint at this time but would be happy to schedule a private tour if you would like to view the property before registering. Please contact customercare@citrus-gs.org if interested.

Camperships

Girl Scouts of Citrus members who express financial need are eligible to receive partial assistance towards their camp fee for a maximum of one camp session. Camperships cannot be combined with any other discounts (i.e. Early Bird) and will be applied to the regular camp registration fee. To be considered for financial assistance, the camper must:

- Have a current GSUSA membership
- Must be registered online for the specific camp session and pay the deposit at the time of registration (which is refundable only in the case of non-approval for Campership)
- Complete the online Campership application (found on the [Girl Scouts of Citrus Summer Camp webpage](#)) no later than April 30th, 2026.

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Please allow up to seven business days for us to process your request. If approved, a confirmation email will be sent with an acceptance letter stating the amount granted. The acceptance letter must be signed and returned immediately. All camp balances must be paid in full by May 16th, 2026. Please note: If the requested campership funds are not accepted or not used, those funds will not remain with or apply as a credit to the Girl Scout's account, they will be redesignated to another applicant.

Check-In

Upon arrival, all campers will complete a check-in process at the main lodge. The check-in process includes checking camper paperwork, a pre-screen health check, and other activities to ensure your camper has a safe and fun week at camp.

The pre-screen health check will include: a temperature check, visually checking hair for lice, and checking feet and toes for Athlete's Foot. You can help expedite the process by making sure your camper's hair is visible (braids will be unraveled). Please note that if your camper is experiencing any of the following symptoms, they will not be allowed to stay:

- A fever greater than 100.4
- Shortness of breath
- Flu-like symptoms
- Have been in contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- Lice or Athlete's Foot

After check-in at the lodge, campers and their families will be able to walk down to their unit to see where they will be spending their time at camp and meet some of their counselors. Please remember everyone – including family members – must have on closed toe/heel shoes when coming to the property, and we ask that families be respectful of when it is time to leave to allow time for the campers to settle in with their fellow campers.

Overnight Camps:

Check-in: Sunday*

Grades 2-5: 3:00 p.m.

Grades 6-8: 3:45 p.m.

Grades 9-12: 4:30 p.m.

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*If you are dropping off campers across multiple grade levels, please come at the later timeslot to allow us to better accommodate your party with the check-in process.

Check-out:

All grades: Friday, 5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Day Camp:

Check-in: Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

Check-out: Monday - Friday, 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

CIT Program

Girl Scouts of the USA recently completed a refresh of the Counselors-in-Training (CIT) and other leadership programs – including new guidelines and facilitation methods. Our Council is temporarily pausing the CIT program for the summer to give us time to refresh and strengthen the experience for future participants. We are reviewing the curriculum, training structure, and overall program goals to ensure we provide a high-quality leadership opportunity that best supports our Girl Scouts. This pause allows us to make meaningful updates so the program can return even stronger. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to improve this important leadership pathway.

Confirmation Packets

Confirmation packets will be emailed one month prior to the start of the camp session. The packet will contain all pertinent information regarding check in/out, what to pack, and other forms and guidelines. Please read through the packet with your camper, review and complete all applicable forms and submit per the instructions.

Your camper's profile in CampDoc and all information for your camper must be completed at least 2 weeks prior to the start of their camp session start date. If your camper is attending multiple camps, you will only need to complete one camp profile in CampDoc. The Camper Release form is the only form that needs to be submitted per session.

Discounts

An Early Bird Discount is available for camp registration. Camp registration must be completed and paid in full by April 2, 2026 to receive an Early Bird discount of \$50 for each full week of camp.

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Please note: If your camp is not paid in full by the deadline your camp fee will increase to the full fee as of April 3, 2026. The Early Bird discount may not be combined with a campership or any other discounts.

Fields Trips

Field trips are an exciting and enriching part of the summer camp experience! This summer, we have selected camp field trips that are designed to complement our program goals by providing campers with opportunities to explore new environments, build independence, and create lasting memories with their peers. Each camp session will include a unique field trip experience.

All field trips are carefully planned and supervised by trained camp staff. Camper safety is our top priority, and trips are selected with age-appropriateness, educational value, and overall camper enjoyment in mind.

Your confirmation packet will include all additional information needed for our scheduled field trips, including destination details, timing, and any special items campers may need to bring. In some cases, field trips may require additional permission forms, which will be communicated clearly ahead of time.

We believe field trips add meaningful value to the camp experience and look forward to sharing these special opportunities with our campers!

Girl Scout Badges

Earning badges is an integral part of Summer Camp. Each week your camper will complete one badge based upon the grade level they will enter in the Fall. Additional badge requirements may also be completed throughout the other activities scheduled during the camp week.

Girl Scout Memberships

Our Summer Camp pricing is based on participants having an active Girl Scout membership. Campers are welcome to attend even if they are not yet a member! They can attend as a non-member participant for an additional \$75 or purchase a Girl Scout membership for member pricing.

Grade Levels

Campers enrolled in Grades 2-12 as of Fall 2026 can attend summer camp. Sessions may vary based on grade level.

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Healthcare

Overnight Camps will have qualified medical staff that are on site 24- hours a day as well as an on-call doctor if illness or injury requires additional medical attention. All staff are certified in First Aid and CPR. Parents will be notified any time there is an incident or if there is an emergency regarding their child.

CampDoc is a secure online database that we use for all healthcare information and registration. This program allows you to turn in all medical forms electronically and keep them on file for a year. More information for new and returning campers will be in your confirmation packet. In a conscious effort to provide a safe and healthy environment for all campers, Girl Scouts of Citrus requires campers to provide the following documents:

Overnight Camp: A physical is required for all campers, that is performed by a medical professional that includes both a health exam and a health history. This physical must be taken within 12 months of the camper's last day at camp. Health exam forms must be signed by a licensed physician as well as current shot records. Any camper who arrives at camp without the appropriate medical paperwork will not be allowed to stay unless they can obtain the missing documents from their physician or an Urgent Care Center on the day of check-in.

All Health Histories, Health Exams and Shot Records need to be uploaded to the CampDoc website no less than two weeks prior to camp start date. The Privacy Act of 2001 protects all personal and medical information. The disclosure of confidential information is only available to health personnel or designated staff.

Homesickness

One of our summer camp goals is to make sure that every child at camp has a safe, fun, and positive experience. As a parent or guardian, you can help with the process of preparing your child from feeling homesick while at camp in the following ways:

- Have your child practice being away from home prior to attending camp. Perhaps encourage them to stay at a friend or relatives' home for a night or weekend.
- Do not promise to pick up your child early from camp. This can make campers focus only on going home and not being able to focus on the fun they will have at camp.
- Use a calendar at home to show that the time spent at camp is not an eternity, but actually a very short amount of time.

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- Do not tell your camper how badly you will miss them while at camp. Do tell them how much you love them, even while they are away from home, and how excited you are for them to have so much fun at camp!
- Communicate before, during, and after the camp experience.
- Encourage your camper to write home about all the new activities that they have tried.
- Share your own positive camp stories with them.
- Let your camper help pack their bags for camp. Pack one favorite picture, stuffed animal, or blanket.
- Spend quality time with your child upon returning home from camp to "reconnect" after the separation period. Keep in mind that campers may experience a boost in self-confidence and independence while at camp.
- Drop off an encouraging note for each day at check-in. Their counselors will deliver them throughout the session.

Do not promise your camper that they can call home while at camp. If a camper is experiencing extreme homesickness or minor homesickness for a sustained period, the camp staff will contact the parents and determine next steps. If you are concerned about your camper, we encourage parents to call camp and speak to the camp director. They will work with you in assuring your camper is having a successful experience.

Inclement Weather

During the summer and throughout the year, staff are constantly monitoring the weather for any indicators that weather may become unfavorable. In an event that there is severe weather in the area, all campers are moved to a safe location, according to the emergency action plan. Lightning calls are made when it is recorded 6 miles away or less. While sheltering in place, the staff will keep the campers occupied with several rainy-day programs until the call has been made that it is safe.

Inclusivity Statement

Girl Scouts of Citrus is committed to building and maintaining an inclusive community that respects and supports all our members. We value the diverse backgrounds and qualities of each youth and adult member – including race; ethnicity; national origin; culture; gender identity and expression; sexual orientation; socio-economic status; age; physical, intellectual, and emotional abilities; and religious and political beliefs – so that all

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members feel they belong. We strive to provide everyone with the opportunity to participate fully in the Girl Scout program and contribute to the Girl Scout community.

Insect Bites

Insect bites can and will occur when participating in activities outdoors. To avoid major incidents, it is highly recommended to pack bug spray with deet and apply it multiple times per day. If your camper needs assistance applying, please make a note in your camper's CampDoc profile under needs assessment under the medical concerns. If your camper is allergic to bug spray or insect bites, please enter that information in CampDoc so the medical staff is aware.

Kapers

Kapers are minor chores campers participate in while attending camp. Each staff member will model and teach campers proper ways to care for the environment and their camp surroundings. Each unit is responsible for the upkeep and cleaning of their area, in addition to any additional daily camp responsibilities. This may include cleaning the dining hall, restrooms, grounds, etc. Campers are closely monitored to make sure that established health and safety procedures are used in completing cleaning tasks. Campers will never directly handle any chemicals while participating in kapers.

Mail/Sending Items to Campers

Bunk1 is a service that allows you to send e-mails to your camper and view the pictures that are taken during the week. Please note that there may be delays with pictures being posted to Bunk1 as the camp staff's number one priority is the campers. We thank you for your patience with this!

Mail time is the best part of a camper's day! We encourage parents to send mail for their child like packages, letters, or e-mails through Bunk1. We do ask that you please send mail in a timely manner so that your child can receive it the week that they are at camp. We highly recommend that you drop mail off during check-in so that there is a guarantee that your child will receive the mail while at camp. If you would like to have your camper send you mail, please pack pre-addressed and stamped envelopes.

Male Staff

Male staff members (paid and volunteer) are a valued part of all aspects of Girl Scouting including Girl Scout Camp. Additional guidelines are followed when men are present to ensure the privacy of the campers as well as of the male staff members. They are never allowed to enter a unit before contacting the staff in charge, they are never alone with any

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campers, and they are never in the same sleeping areas as the campers. In all situations, Safety Activity Checkpoints standards for involving men in Girl Scout activities are followed.

Meals and Snacks

We are happy to announce that we are introducing a new food service for our 2026 Summer Camp season. Beginning in June 2026, we will be partnering with Second Harvest Food Bank's Mercy Kitchen to provide fresh meals with clean ingredients to our campers – while reinvesting resources back into our local community. Mercy Kitchen will oversee all food preparation and delivery to our Mah-Kah-Wee and Riverpoint properties.

While attending Summer Camp, all meals and daily snacks will be provided beginning with dinner on the day they check in and ending with lunch on the day they check out*. If your camper has any special dietary needs or allergies, please list them in CampDoc and contact customercare@citrus-gs.org within two weeks of submitting your camp registration to ensure we can provide accommodations.

**Please note that Day Camp includes breakfast, lunch, and snacks. Dinner is not included.*

Opportunities to Learn More About Camp

We also have a virtual Q+A session and a brand-new adult workshop scheduled for the Spring to help prepare parents/guardians for Summer Camp. In our adult workshop, "Preparing Your Camper for Summer Camp", participants will gain valuable insights into assessing an individual's readiness for camp, learn how to engage in meaningful conversations before their camp session, and discover effective strategies to alleviate any concerns the camper or parent/guardian has associated with the camp experience.

While there is no cost, everyone must register using the [Girl Scouts of Citrus Events Calendar](#).

Below are the dates for our virtual opportunities:

- Q&A Session – Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 6:00pm – 7:00pm
- Preparing Your Camper for Summer Camp – Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Payments

All camp sessions require a non-refundable deposit that must be made at the time of registration. The balance of the camp fee can be made in payments or in a one lump sum

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through your CampDoc account. All camps must be paid in full by May 16, 2026. If you register after May 16, 2026, payment must be made in full at time of registration.

Phone Calls

The camp phone is for emergency and business calls only. In case you need to contact the Outdoor Program Office during camp, the phone number will be included in your confirmation packet. We ask you to please be understanding if you are unable to immediately reach someone at camp. We will be checking and returning phone calls regularly.

Campers are not allowed to bring cell phones or electronics of any kind to camp*. If a camper is found with a cell phone it will be taken away and held in the camp office until check out when it will be returned to the parent/guardian. An important part of the camping experience is being "unplugged".

*Medical exceptions will be allowed. Please notify us during the check-in process if your camper uses a cell phone or electronic device to monitor a medical condition.

Photos

Group photos will be taken during each week of camp and can be purchased before the camp session through CampDoc for an additional fee of \$10 per group photo.

Program Disclaimer

We reserve the right to cancel/alter any program activity when weather conditions are unfavorable or severe. Alternative options will be offered at that time. Our primary concern is for the safety of the campers, and every effort will be made to reschedule the activity. No refunds or adjustments in fees will be made if the activity cannot be rescheduled.

Ratio

Safety is our number one priority, and we strive to meet or exceed all established safety standards for staffing. Below are our minimum adult/youth ratios:

- 2 adults to every 12 campers currently in 2nd or 3rd grade
- 2 adults to every 16 campers currently in 4th or 5th grade
- 2 adults to every 20 campers currently in 6th - 8th grade
- 2 adults to every 24 campers currently in 9th - 12th grade

Registration - Cancellation and Refund Policy

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Cancellations and refunds for any Summer Camp must be submitted in writing via email to customercare@citrus-gs.org no later than the camp registration deadline (which is one month from the start date of the session). Any fees paid to date (beyond the non-refundable deposit) will be refunded. Any cancellations after the registration deadline will not be refunded unless it is for extenuating medical or family circumstances.

Registration – How to Register

Summer Camp registration opens January 26, 2026. Registration is held through an online platform: CampDoc. If you do not already have an account with CampDoc, you will need to create one. This website is also the location where you will upload all your required forms, order camp packs, and input medical information. As previously stated, this is a secure site that is only accessible to those that are required to view the information. More information on how to register can be found on the “Registration” page of this document.

Registration - Transfer Policy

While deposits are non-refundable, they may be transferred to another camp session registration included in the 2026 Summer Camp program. Transfers allow a camper to transfer registration from one camp session to another (subject to availability). Transfers must be done no later than the camp registration deadline for the camp session by contacting customercare@citrus-gs.org. Any transfers requested after the camp registration deadline will not be approved. Please note that camp registrations cannot be transferred from one camper to another camper.

Sickness and Communicable Diseases Disclaimer

When a camper is not feeling well, they will be taken to the Infirmary to visit with the Healthcare Supervisor/Staff. If they are running a fever of 101 or higher, throwing up, or having diarrhea, their parents and/or guardians will be contacted to arrange for their camper to be picked up. They must be free of any symptoms for 48 hours before returning to camp.

Sleeping Arrangements

Campers will be assigned to a specific unit/room for the week they are at camp. Sleeping areas may include cabins, tiny houses, yurts, or bedrooms. The capacity of campers varies based on the sleeping area. Sleeping areas will be based on the unit your camper is assigned to during their camp session.

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Counselors will sleep in separate sleeping quarters, but within the same unit as campers so that they are always accessible if a camper needs them. All sleeping areas at both Mah-Kah-Wee and Riverpoint are equipped with fans and air conditioning.

Special Accommodations

Girl Scouts of Citrus Council is committed to providing a fun and safe experience for all campers. We evaluate each camper's needs on an individual basis to determine if we can provide the necessary accommodations. While we strive to accommodate all campers, our staff-to-camper ratio and the nature of our programs may limit our ability to provide the specific level of support a camper may need. Campers requiring special accommodations, meals, or equipment must notify us in writing within two weeks of submitting their camp registration (and no later than one month prior to the scheduled camp session).

Summer Staff and Training

Staff are selected based on their previous experience, character, maturity, personality, teamwork, education, leadership ability, skills, and certifications in specific program areas. Staff members can include, but are not limited to, college students and graduates, certified teachers, and program professionals. All staff that are directly responsible for campers are a minimum of 18 years old. Many staff return each year to make a difference in campers' lives.

All new and existing staff members are required to go through an intensive interview process including, but not limited to multiple interviews, receiving a favorable Level 2 background check, and clearance from a National Sex Offender Public Website. All staff participate in a mandatory training program designed to prepare the staff to create a positive and supportive camp environment. During this period, the staff learn child development, the Girl Scout Program, camp skills, group dynamics, safety and emergency procedures, regulations, cooperative learning, and more. Leadership staff are also required to attend additional training courses such as group management, team dynamics and leadership.

If you know someone that may be interested in joining us as a summer camp staff member, please check the career section of our Citrus Council website at www.citrus-gs.org for open positions.

Swimming

At Mah-Kah-Wee, campers will have opportunities to swim in the pool and canoe or corcol on the lake. All campers take part in a waterfront safety orientation and swim test on their

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first or second day at camp. Colored bracelets will be worn by campers to identify their appropriate swim level. When campers are participating in waterfront activities, we use a buddy system so campers are never alone during the activities.

T-Shirts and Patches

Each camper will receive a camp T-shirt and patch, which is included in their registration fee. When you register your camper, please be sure to choose your camper's t-shirt size. If you forgot to select your camper's shirt size during the registration process, please log into CampDoc.

Trading Post

The trading post will be open during check-in on Sundays, and during the week for one additional time for campers to purchase items like water bottles, stuffed animals, T-shirts, jewelry, and snacks. Each unit will be visiting the trading post at a designated time to purchase items when available.

The Citrus Council shop team will also be on-site during check-in on Sundays to collect trading post funds for campers to use throughout the week. During check-in, parents/guardians will be able to provide cash in an envelope for their camper to use at the Trading Post.

Camp Care Packages are available for purchase in advance through CampDoc during registration as an add on item. You can also purchase them during check-in when you visit the trading post. Please note that if you do not purchase your Camp Care Package in advance, there is a chance that your camper may need to wait until the following day to receive it if we run out.

Transportation

Parents are responsible for the transportation of their children to and from all camps. The camp will provide transportation for special activities and field trips that are included within the camp session. Most out-of-camp trips that require transportation will be provided by council-owned or leased vehicles driven by staff members who are at least 25 years of age and have a favorable driving record. Some trips may require the use of charter buses or other vehicles. These approved vendors would provide their licensed staff members for transportation.

Types of Camp - Day Camp and Overnight Camp

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Our Day Camp at Camp Mah-Kah-Wee is a new pilot program we are launching for Summer 2026. Day Camp will run congruently with Overnight Camp and these campers will interact in all the same activities throughout the day! The main difference between Day Camp and Overnight Camp is there will be a specified drop-off time in the morning and pick-up time in the evening for Day campers, while Overnight campers will remain at camp throughout the entire program. Please note: As this is a pilot program, there are a limited number of spots available to participate.