



ANDOVER
 143 Abbot St.
 Andover, MA 01810
 T 978-269-6651
 F 978-809-3488

BOSTON
 420 Boylston St., Ste 505
 Boston, MA 02116
 T 617-482-1078
 F 617-482-9045

MIDDLEBORO
 111 East Grove St.
 Middleboro, MA 02346
 T 508-923-0800
 F 508-923-7676

WALTHAM
 265 Beaver St.
 Waltham, MA 02452
 T 781-893-6113
 F 781-893-0022

Camping Learning Plan for Volunteers

An integral part of Girl Scouting for many girls is the outdoor experience. Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts (GSEMA) provides volunteers with training opportunities to enhance the outdoor experience and keep girls safe. Troop camping requires one volunteer who has completed Outdoor Basics or Troop Camping Training and another adult certified in First Aid and CPR (FA/CPR). The outdoor trainings are a sequence and must be completed in order by the aspiring camping trained volunteer, beginning with [Online Overnight Orientation](#). [FA/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. Online Overnight Orientation is a pre-requisite. Additional training required. 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. Is additional training required? Yes, if you want to take your girls 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 girls 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 girls. No additional training is required for camping with girls.	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 GSEM, 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.



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Town Encampments and Large Group Camping Experiences		
What is an encampment?	<p>An Encampment is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 girls). • Has an organized program (theme) that is planned by and with girls • Is planned under the auspices of a trained Encampment Director and her/his team 	
Are there training requirements to plan an encampment?	<p>Services units must have a trained Encampment Director to begin planning for a Town Encampment</p> <p>To become an Encampment Director, one must first:</p> <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 • Hold a current FA/CPR from a Girl Scout approved organization • Have completed GSEMA Encampment Director Training 	
How do I become an Encampment Director?	<p style="text-align: center;">GSEMA Encampment Director Training (2 hours – online)</p> <p>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, girl-led planning, program ideas and property information. Complete 9 months prior to encampment.</p>	<p><i>Upon Completion you will be authorized to plan and run a Town Encampment.</i></p>
Camping Forms & Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety Activity Checkpoints • GSEMA's Volunteer Essentials: Chapter 4: Safety Wise • Girl Scout Activity Form • Property Reservation Form 	

For questions on the above trainings, please contact GSEMA's Customer Care team at customercare@gsema.org or 844-306-GSEM (4736).