

Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
Outdoor Education for Adults
Fall 2023 and Spring 2024

Outdoor Basics Hybrid Training is required for any outdoor cooking, fire building, or use of tents by the Girl Scouts in our council.

- Complete Prerequisite online training before attending In-Person Skills Session.
- In-Person Skills Session scheduled for four hours on a weekend day in one of our two camps in Spring and Fall (additional days can be scheduled by any guaranteed group of at least ten adults subject to trainer and location availability)
- Food fee of \$10 covers a cooked snack using multiple cooking methods
- Must have access to *Outdoor Education in Girl Scouting*, sold for additional \$10

Outdoor Basics is experiential and online training focused on how to train girls in outdoor skills. This course will prepare you to take the girls for any outdoor experience from a simple cookout to an overnight in a tent. You will learn online how to teach the safe handling and use of knives; basic knots; and sanitation for hands and dishes, as well as, learn how to plan for camping, including how to help girls choose menus, and how to pack clothes, personal gear, and group gear. You will learn about our GSJS facilities and receive valuable packing lists. At the in-person portion of the training, you will review fire building and knots and then, cook a snack in a box oven and Dutch oven. All volunteers, not just troop leaders, who work with girls are welcome to attend.

Outdoor Basics: 9 am to 1 pm, Sunday, September 24, 2023, Camp Amity Acres, Barnegat

Outdoor Basics: 1 pm to 5 pm, Saturday, October 7, 2023, Camp Sacajawea, Farmingdale

Outdoor Basics: 1 pm to 5 pm, Saturday, April 13, 2024, Camp Amity Acres, Barnegat

Outdoor Basics: 9 am to 1 pm, Sunday, April 28, 2024, Camp Sacajawea, Farmingdale

Overnight Add-On is for those who wish additional information and to experience an overnight. (May be taken on the same weekend as Outdoor Basics or separately at a later date.)

- Held overnight from 5:00 pm to 9:00 am, either before or after Outdoor Basics
- Food fee of \$10 covers evening snack and full breakfast
- Participants must bring their own gear, including a sack supper, using a list that we will provide

This optional course allows volunteers to continue experiential training by having an overnight with volunteer trainers in one of our camps. This can be taken on the same weekend with Outdoor Basics or separately at a later date following completion of an Outdoor Basics training. Actually experiencing an overnight will help you to prepare your girls. Trainers will offer time-tested techniques for adult volunteers to guide the girls to a successful outing. As part of our overnight experience, we share outdoor program ideas of songs, games, outdoor flag ceremony, and an evening campfire with songs and skits.

Overnight Add-On: Saturday, Sept. 23 from 5 pm to 9 am, Sunday, September 24, 2023, Camp Amity

Overnight Add-On: Saturday, October 7 from 5 pm to 9 am, Sunday October 8, 2023, Camp Sacajawea

Overnight Add-On: Saturday, April 13 from 5 pm to 9 am, Sunday April 14, 2024, Camp Sacajawea

Overnight Add-On: Saturday, April 27 from 5 pm to 9 am, Sunday April 28, 2024, Camp Amity Acres

Advanced Outdoor Training is for those who want to progress to the next level of camping including pitched tents and additional skills and techniques for the out-of-doors.

MUST have already attended Outdoor Basics PLUS either the Overnight Add-On or had experience in tents/platform tents after Outdoor Basics

- Held on a weekend from Saturday 9:00 am to Sunday noon
- Preparatory meeting held on a weekday evening will be held as a Zoom meeting
- Fee of \$40 includes meals and use of camping area in either a state or county park
- Participants will help in planning the meals and developing the list of activities to be covered.

This course provides additional practical and fun training that takes camping to the next level. Participants pitch tents in a local state or county park. During the weekend, advanced techniques will include a deeper understanding of Leave No Trace, more outdoor cooking techniques, and additional songs and games. Participants will help design the course by choosing from options such as lashing to make a table, compass and orienteering, additional knots, introduction to wilderness first aid, water purification, alternative methods of starting a fire, properties of fabric and their uses, flag disposal ceremony, or creating and following trail markers. **No session scheduled at this time. Expected to be scheduled in late Spring 2024.**

Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore's Adult Outdoor Training FAQ

When should I take Outdoor Training?

When your girls have expressed interest in doing outdoor activities, it's a good time to have the training. An ideal time is when your girls are second year Daisies or first year Brownies. But any level leader or designated volunteer can take the training. Just remember if you want to have a fire with your Girl Scout troop you need to be outdoor trained. This includes a backyard charcoal BBQ.

How long does the training last?

A series of online modules and equipment construction is required before attending the in-person portion of the Outdoor Basics. They usually take about five to six hours. The in-person portion of Outdoor Basics takes four hours on a scheduled weekend morning or afternoon. We have a full agenda and are moving the whole time. A cooked snack is included. The Overnight Add-On is the night either immediately before or after Outdoor Basics from 5:00 pm to 9:00 am.

What is the Overnight Add-On? Is it required? Why should I take it?

Many of our attendees in the past have felt that they would like to experience an overnight with experienced volunteer trainers before going out with their girls overnight. While it is not 'required', it is strongly recommended, especially if you have never camped in a tent. Also, we cover topics that we don't have time for during Outdoor Basics that will add to your knowledge such as outdoor games, campfire songs and skits, and ceremonies.

How often do you hold the trainings?

Our classes are held spring and fall each year when the weather is the most pleasant. We hold them rain or shine so please dress in layers appropriate to the weather. In addition, we will schedule additional trainings for a group of 10 or more registered adults as long as we have trainers available for your date and an appropriate location.

Is Outdoor Training only for leaders?

No, any registered adult can take Outdoor Training. Having a parent as an outdoor trained person is a great way for the leader to share the responsibilities of running a troop. There can also be multiple outdoor trained people in one troop. In fact, it is a good idea in case the trained volunteer is not available for a specific date.

I've been camping for many years; do I still need to take Outdoor Training?

Yes, the focus on Outdoor Training is not only to teach you outdoor skills but to teach you how to teach the girls. We go over different teaching methods and present different activities. Many of our attendees have prior experience and come away with new techniques and ideas.

How many times must I take this course? Just once, as an adult, assuming that you complete the course. However, you may repeat the course, if desired!

There is a \$10 fee for Outdoor Basics and a \$10 fee for the Overnight Add-On. Why? What other costs are involved?

The small fees that are charged are for the food that you consume at the training and appropriate supplies. We also require that you have access to the GSUSA published book *Outdoor Education in Girl Scouting*. This is available for an additional \$10 or you can share with another volunteer.

Financial assistance is available, please contact pshank@gsfun.org.

I have a special diet. Should I bring my own food?

Usually, no. Part of the training is learning new methods of cooking and eating together what is created. We ask for any dietary restrictions or allergies on the registration form so that our trainers can accommodate your special needs. In the past we have accommodated dairy, gluten and nut allergies, as well as, vegetarians and diabetics. While we cannot cook strict kosher or halal with our equipment and suppliers, we will avoid dietary conflicts such as pork, if requested. We do need planning time so please notify us in advance before we do our shopping. We will contact you to discuss your needs, if necessary.

How do I register?

Online at our council website jerseyshoregirlscouts.org under the [Activities tab](#)

Have another question? Please e-mail Linda Klose, lkclose@comcast.net