

BIG NEWS – We have split Outdoor Skills into two sections so you can take just what you need!

We are also offering an Outdoor Skills (includes 101 and 102 as described below) without the Online Component for those who prefer hands-on and in-person. That date is **Saturday, March 29, 2025** in Camp Sacajawea from 9am to 5pm with Overnight 5pm to Sunday 9 am. No prerequisites needed.

Outdoor Skills 101 is for Beginners who want to sleep in a lodge or other building with full facilities and want to have a campfire.

- You must complete the Prerequisite online training specific to this course before attending an In-Person Skills Session. This is a series of videos with quizzes which can be done at a time convenient for you.
- The In-Person Skills Session is scheduled for two hours on a weekday evening or weekend day in one of our two camps. You select the date when you register.
- You can schedule your own training date if you guarantee at least ten adult attendees. (subject to trainer and location availability.)
- You must have access to the book *Outdoor Education in Girl Scouting*, sold for an additional \$10.

Outdoor Skills 101 is focused on you preparing your girls for an overnight away from home in a lodge or other building with electricity, heat, and flush toilets. You will also learn how to teach the girls about campfire building and safety. You will learn online how to plan for camping, including how to help girls choose menus and what personal gear they will need. You will learn about our GSJS facilities and receive valuable packing lists.

Outdoor Skills 102 is for Intermediates who want to use platform tents or yurts in our camps (or any other camp). It includes more cooking methods, and traditional camping skills and activities.

- You must complete Prerequisite online training specific to this course before attending an In-Person Skills Session. You may take 102 separately from 101, but must take 101 prior to 102. You may take both of them on the same day.
- The In-Person Skills Session is scheduled for two hours, usually following the Outdoor Skills 101 when held on a weekend day for a total of four hours.
- There are fees for food prepared and eaten at training.

Outdoor Skills 102 continues the experiential and online training focused on how to train girls in outdoor skills. Taking both 101 and 102 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. At the in-person portion of the training, you will review starting charcoal and knots, then cook a snack in a box oven and Dutch oven. All volunteers who work with girls, not just troop leaders, are welcome to attend.

Overnight Add-On is for those who wish additional information and to experience an overnight. (May be taken on the same weekend as Outdoor Skills 102 or separately later.)

- Held overnight from 5:00 pm to 9:00 am, either before or after Outdoor Skills 101 and 102
- Food fee of \$15 covers dinner, evening snack, and full breakfast
- Participants will be given a list of items to bring including a sleeping bag, clothing, & toiletries.

This optional course allows volunteers to continue experiential training by having an overnight with experienced, volunteer trainers in one of our camps. This can be taken on the same weekend with Outdoor Skills or separately at a later date following completion of an Outdoor Skills training. *Experiencing an overnight stay 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.

Saturday, Sept. 28 in Camp Amity Acres: 1 to 3 pm for 101, followed by 102 from 3 to 5 pm
Overnight is 5 pm Sat. Sept 28 to 9 am Sun. Sept. 29

Sunday, Oct 6 in Camp Sacajawea: 9 to 11am for 101, followed by 102 from 11am to 1pm,
Overnight is 5 pm Sat. Oct. 5 to 9 am Sun. Oct. 6

Tuesday, Oct 8 in Camp Amity Acres: 6 to 8 pm for 101 only

Monday, Oct. 21 in Camp Sacajawea: 6 to 8 pm for 101 only

Saturday, January 11 in Camp Sacajawea: 9-11 am for 101, followed 11am-1pm 102, no overnight

Sunday, April 6 in Camp Amity Acres: 9 to 11am for 101, followed by 102 from 11am to 1pm,
Overnight is 5 pm Sat. April 5 to 9 am Sun. April 6

Saturday, April 26 in Camp Sacajawea: 1 to 3 pm for 101, followed by 102 from 3 to 5 pm
Overnight is 5 pm Sat. April 26 to 9 am Sun. April 27

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 registered 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 segments of Outdoor Skills for which you registered. They usually take about four to five hours total for all segments together. The in-person portion of Outdoor Skills takes four hours in two segments of two hours each on a scheduled weekend morning or afternoon. **101 is only two hours and is also offered on weekday evenings by itself.** We have a full agenda and are moving the whole time. 102 includes a cooked snack. The Overnight Add-On is the night either immediately before or after Outdoor Skills 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 Skills 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 mostly in the 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 there is 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 outdoor skills to you 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 are fees for outdoor training courses. 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 gsfun.org under the [Calendar](#)

Have another question? Please email [Linda Klose, \[Linda.Klose@comcast.net\]\(mailto:Linda.Klose@comcast.net\)](mailto:Linda.Klose@comcast.net)