



GSEP ADULT DEVELOPMENT

Guidelines and Requirements for Girl Scout Outdoor-trained Adults

Troop requirements

Before accompanying girls on outdoor and overnight experiences, adult volunteers must complete a series of training courses presented on-site by volunteer facilitators or—in some cases—online for at-home study. All training is provided in conjunction with or through the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania (GSEP) Adult Development Department.

At least **one** adult troop representative is required to satisfactorily complete the appropriate coursework corresponds to any outdoor activity a troop intends to conduct.. The adult who has completed the outdoor coursework must attend outdoor trips or cookouts to insure the safety and preparedness of participating Girl Scouts.

Role of the Outdoor-trained Adult

Girl Scout Outdoor-trained Adults are responsible for all aspects of preparing girls, leaders and any chaperoning adults for any outdoor experience—including overnight camping trips in cabins or tents, or cook-outs in the park. Outdoor-trained Adults do not need to be a troop leader, which makes it an excellent role for a parent or guardian, relative, adult sibling, or other sponsor who cannot lead or assist on a regular basis but wants to be involved with troop activities.

Girl Scout Outdoor-trained Adults are expected to instruct all girl and adult troop members on the following:

- Safety Wise® guidelines
- Council policies and procedures
- Appropriate clothing and personal belongings to bring—and leave at home
- Proper packing procedures and baggage
- Troop supplies and needs
- Emergency procedures
- The Buddy System
- Kaper Charts
- Outdoor etiquette
- Avoiding interaction with “permanent outdoor residents” (i.e., critters)

Training Requirements

Pre-requisite: Outdoor 101

All Outdoor-trained Adults must complete Outdoor 101. This training is free. Those who have not previously been outdoor-trained complete an in-person pre-training session in town. (For re-training information, see Re-Training section.)

On-site training

On-site outdoor coursework is completed at GSEP camps, with much of the time spent outdoors:

Outdoor 102 – Cooking and Fires courses are typically scheduled in May, June, September and October. Pending space availability, s, both courses are offered at our camps in June through August. The cost of this training is \$10.

Outdoor 103 – Because of seasonal weather conditions, overnight courses are scheduled from March through November. Participants stay in heated buildings during colder months, but complete much of their training outdoors. During warmer months, participants typically stay in platform tents. The cost of this training is \$10.

It's important to consider these course-schedule timeframes when planning troop camping trips or other outdoor activities. At least 3-6 months of preparation time is recommended, particularly for those individuals whose troops who are inexperienced or have not frequently camped together. This enables the Outdoor-trained Adult adequate time to instruct and orient all attending girls and adults, and to insure a safe, fun and educational outdoor experience for everyone.

Re-training

Outdoor-trained Adult eligibility remains current for five years. Re-training in outdoor skills can be completed through at-home study or attending an on-site course. Registration for on-site courses must be completed through [E Council](#); Click on Adult Training, then select your desired session and follow the instructions.

To register for at-home training:

- Complete the [Outdoor Retraining Registration Form](#) (page 19 in the Adult Education Guide).
- Return the form; check payment for \$5 for Outdoor 102 and/or \$5 for Outdoor 103; and a copy of your Adult Learning Record to:

Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania
Attn: Teresa Van Arsdale
P.O. Box 814
Valley Forge, PA 19482

- Appropriate re-training skill assessment tests and course materials will be mailed.
- Return completed paperwork to Teresa Van Arsdale. A passing grade of 90 percent is required.

Exemptions

Individuals who have extensive outdoor experience **or** have completed courses through another organization (i.e., another Girl Scout Council, Boy Scouts, American Outdoor Association, etc.) may qualify for home-study training. Contact Jill Sober at jsober@gsep.org to request qualifications worksheets and requirements.

Home study retraining skill assessment materials are available to maintain active training status, but should be completed in advance not more than 60 days after expiration. Please verify that your training has not expired and plan accordingly to ensure no lapse in qualification. You may re-qualify by taking the courses or by completing the home study workbooks.

If you exceed the 60 days, you will be asked to complete the exemption qualification worksheets before being permitted to take the home study exemption or must register for the in-person outdoor courses.

Find out more.

With additional questions regarding outdoor training, contact Jill Sober, Adult Recruitment and Development Manager, at jsober@gsep.org or 610-791-2411, ext. 1504 (or 1-888-355-3847 outside the Lehigh Valley).