

**Preparing for the Return to Girl Scout Summer Camp**

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Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania (GSEP) is looking forward to welcoming girls back to in-person Camp this summer at our 6 camp locations across our nine-county footprint.

After launching Camp@Home during COVID and having a reduced capacity at Camp last summer, it looks like it’s all systems go for a summer that looks more normal than not. And that is exciting for us and for our Girl Scouts!

Last year, GSEP was the only Girl Scout Council in the nation to offer a full slate of in-person camps, welcoming more than 3,000 girls. Nearly 80 girls opted for Camp@Home.

This year, we will open Camp at FULL CAPACITY and to date, our registrations are quickly outpacing pre-COVID years. What that tells us is our Girl Scouts are ready to get back together, try new things, have fun, and make new friends.

When Girl Scouts arrive at Camp this summer, we will be ready. Like other organizations, we have updated our cleaning protocols and continue to monitor guidance on appropriate safety measures. Camp will operate in accordance with Pennsylvania and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)’s guidelines.

With restrictions easing, our new hurdle to jump is in hiring staff. Employee shortages affect all industries, including Camp. We are working hard to fill roles such as camp aide, camp counselor, lifeguard, program manager, horseback riding instructor, arts & craft manager, and more.

These challenges are not unique to GSEP. All non-profits face hurdles in delivering on their mission, especially in trying times. But the opportunity to serve our communities is what keeps us moving forward.

For many families and especially those who are under resourced and are returning to the office, daycare and schooling remain a challenge. We are offering financial assistance for families who have Girl Scouts who want to attend Camp this summer. And, for the second year in a row, we will offer the “Girl Scout Summer Series,” to introduce girls entering grades Kindergarten through fifth in fall 2022 to the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

The past two years have strengthened the resilience and commitment of the non-profit community. We have proven that we can maintain a strong connection to our members, their families, and volunteers whether in-person or virtually.

No matter what is ahead, GSEP is ready to provide a fantastic Girl Scout Leadership Experience through programs, events, and summer camp throughout 2022 and beyond.

For more information about GSEP’s year-round programming, visit [gsep.org/events](https://www.gsep.org/en/events/event-list.html).