

## GSSEM Guide to Camp Facilities and Program Services (2/1/10 update)

**Welcome GSSEM Camps!** This Guide to Camp Facilities and Program Services is designed to help troops/groups plan their time at our camps.

Are you thinking about taking a group to camp? There are 3 factors you'll want to consider:

1. **Location, location, location!** Our camps are so different from each other, with a variety of amenities and natural landscapes. Are you looking to be pampered? Test your survival skills? How far do you want to drive? Have you and your girls been going to the same camp every year and it's time to explore?
2. **You want to do WHAT?** Haven't had a chance to outdoor training yet? Don't know the difference between a mosquito and a moth? Are your girls ready to go but you're not? Camp staff will lead anything from fishing to horseback riding to high ropes to much more. They'll even do a campfire with s'mores! Simply select which activities your girls want and we'll be there.
3. **Food, glorious food!** Do you have so much you'd like to do outside that you don't want to spend time doing dishes? Are your girls so picky that the thought of guiding them through meal prep makes you want to run away? Is your idea of camping using a Dutch Oven every day as you make a multi-course meal over the fire? The choice is yours!

The good news is that there's something for everyone. The coming together of GSSEM has led to an unprecedented range of experiences for our girls! In addition to the offerings outlined here, each camp has a detailed outline of the possibilities are for planning a great stay at camp. Watch the website for this valuable information or contact a camp director directly.

### **New for 2009-10**

If you have stayed at one of our camps previously, you will notice several changes in the 2009-10 year:

- More options!! You can camp at any of our properties throughout the year! All of the camps have new program offerings, whether for rental groups or weekend events.
- New pricing structure. Most programs and overnight accommodations are priced per person instead of a flat fee. This will be a savings to some and an increase for some. It's our new GSSEM way!
- Peak and Off-Peak pricing for buildings/units means that you can save money by sharing with other troops/groups, and we'll even help you match up with another group!
- A Food Service option is now available at Camp Hawthorn Hollow (min. 50 people) and Camp Innisfree (min. 50 people). Food service is not available at our other sites.
- Groups who do not want to clean may opt to pay a \$75 cleaning fee. A Girl Scout always leaves a place better than she found it, but there are times when a group can anticipate needing help with the cleaning. Indicate your opt-in for cleaning on the **Application For Use of GSSEM Camp Facilities and/or Program Services**.

### **How to Book a Weekend (or weekdays!) at a GSSEM Camp:**

1. Fill out an **Application For Use of GSSEM Camp Facilities and/or Program Services**. Reservations can be made by email, fax, or walk-in, up to 9 months in advance. A \$50.00 non-refundable deposit is due with reservations of each rental unit. Please make all checks out to "GSSEM". You may also pay with cash or credit card.
2. Deposits are due for each building or rental unit with the rental form and are non-refundable at any time and non-transferable after the building cancellation period has ended, which is 30 days before your camping dates. Groups must update our office with final projected attendance numbers and payment is due no later than 30 days in advance of your rental date. There will be no alterations in final balances or refunds of any kind, for any balances paid or unpaid, after this 30 day final payment date. Unpaid balances will be turned over to collections.
3. For all overnight and day rentals each group must have a person in place during check-in and remaining on site for the duration of the camping trip until check-out who is first aid and CPR certified and has received the appropriate training for the kind of camping you will be doing. Complete information is available in the Learning Opportunities portion of the Leader Guide. Certification cards must be presented at check-in. Groups need to bring a first aid kit.
4. Groups will receive a confirmation packet that includes: a group rental contract, final balance bill, directions to camp, and for larger groups, a multiple building rental assignment form to schedule multiple check-in/out times for multiple living units.
5. The group rental contract must be returned to GSSEM within 10 days to secure your reservation. Activity reservations are acceptable up to 6 weeks in advance. If activities are being reserved, a separate activity schedule with permission forms, if applicable, will be sent to you before your arrival. Minors at the challenge course (low ropes, climbing tower, zip lines, high ropes) or equestrian center will need to have a consent form signed by a parent/guardian.

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### Camp Hawthorn Hollow

#### Columbus, MI

Camp Hawthorn Hollow is tucked away on 330 acres of mature Michigan hardwood and softwood forests and open rolling meadows in St. Clair County, Michigan. Living areas range from semi-primitive, intimate settings to modern lodges depending on age level and program. Our support buildings such as our dining hall, activity center, outdoor pool, challenge course, and other activity areas are maintained with the highest standard of care.

**Lodges** are modern dorm-like buildings with heat, electricity, bunk beds (your troop provides linens), modern kitchens, and indoor plumbing. Three lodges are available in 32 person capacities and six lodges in 36 person capacities. Lodges include cooking equipment such as pots, pans, and cooking utensils for indoor use. Troops are encouraged to bring their own outdoor cooking supplies, paper products, food, and mess kits for meals. Lodges also provide cleaning equipment such as brooms, mops, and buckets. An optional cleaning service is provided for an additional fee. Outdoor charcoal grills, picnic tables, and one fire circle with a cooking grill come standard with each lodge.



The **Villages** are newer, seasonal sites with elevated cabins, sleeping four in each. These cabins include single beds, and lighting, but no electrical outlets. Each village unit is serviced by an adjacent multi-purpose building. The screened in multi-purpose building can be used for eating and as a program area. It includes an indoor restroom, tables and chairs, a refrigerator, and basic food preparation areas with outdoor cooking on a charcoal grill or fire circle. Hot water, electricity, and ceiling fans are available in the multi-purpose buildings. Villages can be rented in 20-person and 40-person capacities.

The **Trillium (Staff) Lodge** is a modern, heated building with semi-private bunking (sleeps 4 in each room), showers, laundry facilities, a modern kitchen including all dishes, cookware, and utensils, a large covered porch with picnic tables, and a large lounge with couches, area rugs, lounge chairs, piano, and an entertainment center complete with a TV and DVD/VCR for relaxing! The lodge is reserved for persons 12 years and older. The lodge has a 24 person capacity (camp staff may be housed in the lower 2 bedrooms).

### Camp Innisfree

#### Howell, MI

Camp Innisfree is located between Howell and Pinckney, Michigan. Set on 1,140 wooded acres with two lakes, sports field, challenge course/program, an excellent equestrian center, as well as other activities.

Camp Innisfree provides an excellent location for Summer Camps and other activities throughout the year. Comfortable troop houses have bunk beds, flush toilets, individual showers, and electricity. Platform cabins are more rustic, using latrine-type restrooms and without electricity.



Innisfree Equestrian Center is located on the north end of Camp Innisfree. The Equestrian Center features an indoor arena, 2 outdoor arenas, a farm animal barn, main stable, and a classroom designed to bring animals inside. Horses are owned by Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan and the equestrian center offers lessons all year long.

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### Playfair Program Center

#### Lexington, MI

Playfair Program Center is a quaint site on the shore of Lake Huron. With 16 acres and a private beach, this is a great spot for a group getaway. There are 2 fully furnished lodges with heat, running water, and electricity. There are also three A-frame buildings that sleep 12 people in each. There are limited wide open spaces at this property, but in addition to the Lake, there's plenty of opportunity to study ecology and enjoy the wooded setting. With platform tents, it's the only site that has the full range of accommodations available to rental groups.



### Camp O'Fair Winds

#### Columbiaville, MI

Camp O'Fair Winds is a rustic camp located on a quiet lake in Lapeer County. Numerous trails and wildlife make Camp O'Fair Winds a nice place to camp. Daisy Hall, the newest building on the property, and platform tents are available during the summer from May 15 – July 5. (Which tent units will be open will be determined based on the condition of platforms, water, and summer kitchens in Spring 2010). Rowboating and paddleboating are available for groups at Camp O'Fair Winds.

### The Timbers

#### Traverse City, MI

The Timbers is located on 262 acres with forests, fields, and lakes that surround the camp facilities. It is a perfect setting for adventure in the out-doors, whether girls are using it as a home base for out-of-camp trips, finding adventures on the lakes or trails of camp, or settling in for a relaxing retreat in one of the cozy buildings. Cross country skiing on our trail system is a popular wintertime activity.

Accommodations at The Timbers include a large Troop House. This winterized building features historic stonework, hard wood floors, and rustic furniture. The kitchen with commercial appliances, a fireplace, and spacious shower facilities make this a comfortable place to stay. There are also 2 similar, smaller lodges. During the summer, unique primitive sites are also available to troops/groups.

