

Every Girl in a Tent Challenge

We're celebrating Girl Scouts' 100-year-plus camping legacy and we want you to take part! Challenge yourself to experience the outdoors by spending a night under the stars.

Earn an exclusive glow-in-the-dark Every Girl in a Tent Patch for any outdoor overnight stay in a **non-permanent structure (think tent, hammock, or quinzhee)** with your troop, family, or Girl Scout sisters. Patches are available for purchase [online](#), at the [Clinton Twp Council Shop](#), or via [curbside service](#).

Why It's Important

Outdoor education is one of the four areas that form the foundation of the [Girl Scout Leadership Experience](#). Every Girl in a Tent continues a strong tradition in camping and learning outdoor principles such as [Leave No Trace](#). Camping experiences and programs like Every Girl in a Tent afford every girl the opportunity to:

- Explore nature and learn to appreciate and protect the outdoors.
- Be challenged to grow in new ways and become better problem solvers.
- Unplug from screens and social media—and know that it's ok to take a break.
- Develop leadership skills and become team players.
- Have fun exploring and building social bonds within a safe space like Girl Scouts!

Plan Your Trip

Never spent a night outdoors before? No problem! Use these basic steps to get started!

1. **Decide where and when you will camp.** Remember, only non-permanent structures count (like a tent or sleeping in the open air under the stars).
2. **Create a packing list.** See our suggestion below.
3. **Plan your menu** and create a shopping list.
4. **Review helpful resources** like our [Every Girl in a Tent Progression Guide](#), [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) and the [Travel Progression and Planning](#) article.
5. **Plan your activities.** Hiking? Singing around the campfire? Bird watching? Simple card or board games? The possibilities are endless!

General Packing List

Here is a basic packing list to get you started – customize to fit your trip's needs! Looking for specific camping items? Check out our [GSSEM Gear Loan Library](#).

Group Gear

- Tents
- Food
- Cooking gear
- Wash bins/biodegradable soap
- Matches/lighter
- Flashlights/lantern
- Compass
- Map
- First aid kit
- Water
- Garbage bags



Individual Girl Gear

- Backpack
- Clothing
- Shoes
- Toiletries
- Medications
- Water bottle
- Mess kit (plate/bowl/fork/spoon)
- Sleeping bag/pillow
- Sleeping pad
- Sunscreen/insect repellent
- Towel
- Rain gear



Frequently Asked Questions

What types of structures count towards Every Girl in a Tent?

Any outdoor, non-permanent structure counts.

- Tent
- Hammock
- Quinzhee
- Tarp Shelter
- Platform Tent
- Open-air/sleeping bag under the stars

What types of structures would not count towards Every Girl in a Tent?

Any permanent structure, such as a cabin, camper, car, or yurt.

Can I participate in Every Girl in a Tent with my family?

Yes, girls can earn the Every Girl in a Tent patch by participating in family trips.

Can a girl share a story for the Every Girl in a Tent patch more than once?

Girls may share their camping stories as often as they wish through our [GSSEM Camp and Outdoor Education Facebook page](#).

Can girls from other councils purchase the Every Girl in a Tent patch?

Absolutely, this patch can be purchased from our GSSEM Online store, we ship nation-wide at www.gssem.org/shop.

To earn the multi-night patches, do you add up all the nights during your entire Girl Scout experience or do you start over with counting the nights for each program level?

The multi-night patches are cumulative across all program levels. If you camped two nights as a Brownie, and three nights as Junior, you could request the 5-night patch.

Can I sleep in a hammock with a bug net to earn the Under the Stars patch?

Yes, but tents in any form do not count for the Under the Stars patch.

What “counts” as Winter Camping?

Aside from being between the months of November and March, winter camping requires additional preparation and steps for cold weather safety. It’s “on your honor” to decide if your experience qualifies.

Get Your Patch

Get Your Patch and Share Your Story!

After your trip, tell us about it! To share your camping stories with us, complete the [GSSEM Camp and Outdoor Education Facebook page](#) and share a photo. Don’t forget to tag us on social media with #EveryGirlInATent and @GSSEM



Base Patch

The exclusive glow-in-the-dark **Every Girl in a Tent patch** can be earned after camping at least one night in a non-permanent structure.



Add-On Patches

The **Multi-Night Challenge add-on patches** can be earned after spending 5, 10, 15, or 20 nights camping in a non-permanent structure. Nights are cumulative, and do not have to be in the same trip.



Winter Add-On Patches

To earn the **Winter Camping add-on patch**, girls must camp in a non-permanent

structure (tent, quinzhee, hammock, etc.) in cold weather between the months of November and March. To earn the **Under the Stars add-on patch**, girls must camp outside of a tent. Think hammock, or right there on the ground!