

Camp Town Hall

Fall 2022 FAQ

General

What is the Camp Network?

The Camp Network is an email list for those interested in camp-related events, philanthropic opportunities, and volunteer opportunities. You can [subscribe to the Camp Network online](#).

What are your camp Facebook pages?

There are many GSWW camp-associated Facebook pages. We encourage everyone to join our primary GSWW Summer Camps Council Facebook group: [Summer Camps of Western Washington](#). Below are some of the key Facebook groups associated with our GSWW camps.

[Friends of St. Albans \(FOSA\)](#)
[Friends of Camp River Ranch](#)
[Friends of Lyle McLeod](#)
[Camp Robbinswold Stewards](#)
[Camp Klahanee](#)
[Friends of Camp Evergreen](#)
[Girl Scouts of Western Washington Day & Twilight Camps](#)

Is there any chance for camp property pictures to be updated? I've had people ask for pictures but it's hard to find good content to share with them.

We are in the process of reviewing and updating our website and confirmation packets. Camp property pictures will be updated over the next few months on both our website and within the confirmation packets.

Supporting Camp

How can Girl Scout youth or troops get involved in supporting camp?

We are always eager to have Girl Scout youth participate in volunteer work parties. You can reach out to our Site Reservation Manager, Aaron, at sitereservations@girlscoutsww.org if your Girl Scout, troop, or group is interested in a specific camp-related project.

Girl Scouts can also earn the Happy Camper Patch by doing a money earning activity for camp or donating some of their cookie proceeds to camp. Every troop that donates or raises \$150 will receive patches for all participants. Each individual who donates \$50 will receive a patch. [Learn more about the Happy Camper Patch](#).

We also encourage participation in Girl Scout programs and hope you tell your friends about the exciting opportunities we offer! Youth do not have to be part of a troop to participate in camp programs.

Why is an annual fund of individual giving necessary for camp?

The annual fund safeguards our camp programs and properties because they do not generate enough revenue to support their annual expenses. Currently, our revenue gap for camp programs and property is a little over \$1,400,000 annually, with the product program covering 20% of total costs. Our financial assistance program relies on the generosity of our donor community, and we give out grants as long as there is funding to provide. In 2019, we provided over \$361,000 in camp financial assistance.

How much should I donate to camp?

Everyone has different giving capacities and life experiences; we don't ask for or recommend an average or specific donation amount per person. Instead, our hope is that everyone who is able considers a personally meaningful recurring gift, either monthly, quarterly, or annually. Recurring gifts create crucial revenue consistency that enables us to maintain and support our camps in a reliable and timely manner.

What's your recognition plan for individual camp giving?

We plan to have different giving levels or societies with benefits and perks. We may produce patches or other recognition items when able, but our top priority is honoring the purpose of the critical funds you give to camp.

What is the fiscal year at Girl Scouts of Western Washington?

Our fiscal year is October 1- September 30.

How can I find out about camp work party events?

We share public work party opportunities on our camp Facebook pages. Our site reservation manager also works closely with marketing to send out additional emails about work party opportunities when necessary, and in 2023, we will debut a Friends of Girl Scouts newsletter to regularly share information including camp updates and work party opportunities. Make sure you are subscribed to the Camp Network list to receive the Friends of Girl Scouts Enewsletter and other camp-related announcements.

Camp Programming & Reservations

How can we reserve camps for troop, service unit, or individual group use?

You must be a registered Girl Scout member to reserve our sites. Individuals can [visit our website](#) to reserve a unit or the entire camp.

We also rent out our camp properties in the spring and fall seasons to other mission-aligned non-profit groups. Non-profit groups interested in reserving a camp should contact sitereservation@girlscoutsww.org

I would love to visit a troop house over winter break, but I've been told no Girl Scout property or space is available for those two weeks. Is that something you'll consider changing in the future?

Our availability schedule is always updating based on member and staff feedback. Our property management staff work very hard and are very diligent all year long. We keep our properties closed during the winter break so they have some much-deserved time off and can spend time uninterrupted with their family and friends.

How far in advance do troops need to plan to reserve camps? The few times we've tried we can't find any availability.

Our member enews announces when reservations open for the spring, summer, and fall season, and reservations are first-come first-served. Reservations open after encamporee dates have been reserved. If you are trying to reserve a site less than 30 days out, you will need to contact the site reservations team at sitereservation@girlscoutswv.org. Availability does not show up online for reservations less than 30 days out from desired date.

How many troops, service units, groups, etc. reserved our sites?

In the site reservation system, there is no way for us to pull what was reserved for troops vs service units vs outside groups vs families. The system is not built this way. We can only pull total reservation groups.

How do you decide which dates are available for service unit encamporees?

We run encamporees from the last weekend in March until about the second week of June, when many schools get out and overnight camp preparations begin. Weather hazards and winterization procedures that protect our camp infrastructure impact the availability of units and properties in the winter and early spring season. March is when the weather typically starts to warm up and our outdoor property units are re-opened for the season. Our larger properties begin overnight camp preparations, during which many units are occupied or otherwise used by staff. Ten annual council events further impact reservation availability for encamporees throughout the year. Over the past year, we opened eight slots for encamporee reservations.

When will registration open for fall encampments?

Our site reservations manager will send out fall 2023 lottery information on February 1. We aim to send out camp lottery information for spring 2024 by March 1, 2023.

What's the status of the kitchen repairs at River Ranch and the convection oven at Robbinswold?

The River Ranch kitchen upgrades are almost 100% complete. The range has been replaced, the temperatures adjusted, the exhaust fan replaced, and the electrical panel replacement scheduled. Due to supply chain issues, our electrician does not have all the parts he needs to complete the panel replacement and will do so once parts are received. The drain has been unclogged, and the walk in freezer unit is scheduled for repairs at the end of this week (week of December 5, 2022). At Robbinswold, we are working with our philanthropy team to find an in-kind donation for the convection oven replacement.

**Can you develop a list of potential service projects Girl Scouts can do at our camps?
Example: St Albans arboretum info sheets, new signage, etc.**

This is a great idea. Throughout the next year we can work with our property management team to get an annual list posted to our website or shared in our enews. You can also contact the property manager and talk to them about your ideas and desire to volunteer. They can build a custom volunteer experience for your troop and work with you directly to schedule your troop work party.

Jason (St. Albans) told us that there is letterboxing at camp, but we had no idea. Can we get an updated list of activities available at each camp?

Our site reservations team is working on identifying, inventorying, updating, and resupplying all program kits at each of our properties. Once this process is complete, we will post available program kit descriptions on our website.

How many campers did St Albans serve during the 2021-22 season?

We did not hold overnight camp at St. Albans this past summer. St. Albans re-opened for reservations in spring 2022. Between spring and fall 2022 we had 75 groups reserve camp, including one volunteer-led family camp. At Evergreen, we had 14 groups reserve camp, including one volunteer led day camp.

What was the amount of financial assistance for the six Community Camps at Lyle McLeod and Camp Juliette?

\$31,468 was awarded to 185 campers through community camp offerings.

Why are you not holding a full season of overnight camp at both Camp River Ranch and Camp St. Albans? Why are you splitting the season between the two?

As we build back to capacity at our camps, we made the decision to split the overnight camp season between Camp River Ranch and Camp St. Albans based on anticipated camp registrations and seasonal staffing challenges. We looked at historical data, property similarities, and a variety of other factors when determining the program plan for overnight camp for Summer 2023.

What is your plan to bring back equine programming?

We continue to evaluate the best plan forward for programming at our camp properties, including equine programming. At this time, we are interested in developing partnership opportunities for year-round equine programming at partner facilities. If you can recommend a vendor providing a horse program that we should connect with, please email us at partners@girlscoutswv.org.

Will we have any day events for Daisy Girl Scouts at our camps this summer?

Due to limited staff capacity as we rebuild our team and programs, we do not plan to offer any day events for Daisies at camps this year. Daisies are welcome at our Family Camps at both Camp River Ranch and Camp Robbinswold. Some service units may also host encamporee programs that include Daisies.

What's your plan for camp scholarships this year?

Our financial assistance program will provide grants of up to \$750 per camper to cover the cost of one week of camp. We have budgeted \$170,000 for camp grants this year based on available funding and known future donors. Financial assistance exists at the generosity of our donors. We provide financial assistance grants as long as there is funding available.

In previous summers, Camp River Ranch allowed some staff from prior years to work for just a week or two during the summer. Is this something River Ranch would be open to this summer?

Yes. Seasonal camp staffing is an anticipated challenge again this summer, and we are exploring several solutions. Having staff committed to the entire summer is ideal; however, if we cannot fill roles for the duration of the summer, we will explore partial season employment options and volunteer opportunities. We will also offer an intern program for Girl Scouts who are 17. Please help make camp possible by spreading the word about summer employment opportunities! Working at camp is not only fun but also a great way to build life and work skills for any career path. Our staff alums cherish the memories and lifelong friendships forged from their summers working at camp.

When will the form to apply to be staff for camp be open?

All camp staff jobs will be posted to our website [careers](#) page in early 2023. We don't have an exact date at this time.

When will overnight camp registration open?

Overnight camp registration will open on February 14, 2023.

What grades do Girl Scouts need to be going into to participate in staffed overnight camps?

Campers need to be rising second graders and above at overnight camp at River Ranch, Robbinswold, and St. Albans.

Will you have the application fixed so Girl Scouts don't have to pick a gender?

The application in CampMinder does allow all individuals to specify their gender. However, due to system limitations, when searching for availability of camp programs, youth do have to select "female." We are working diligently with CampMinder to determine if the search feature function can also be modified.

Budget/Finances

What portion of site reservation fees support camp property maintenance expenses?

Revenue for site reservations first supports expenses related to council staff and system costs associated with facilitating and managing site reservations. Any net revenue beyond this supports property maintenance expenses.

What do Women's Own funds support?

Registration fees for Women's Own first support related program expenses, including staff support, supplies, and camp use. Net revenue from registration fees then supports property maintenance expenses. Women's Own also conducts fundraising activities to support a designated and agreed-upon project or need at camp. These funds are included in the annual fund and are designated to Camp Robbinswold.

What is included in camp program and campsite fees?

Our camp program and site reservation fees include the cost of direct program supplies, technology systems used to support registration and reservations, and direct staff support expenses. Prices do not include direct property support and maintenance-related expenses. It became cost-prohibitive for our campers to include maintenance-related property expenses in these fees. We want to ensure participation is affordable for our membership. As we rebuild our membership and programs and work to increase the use of our camp properties, we anticipate that a portion of our site use revenue will support maintenance-related property expenses in the future.

Why are there no maintenance projects for Camp Klahanee?

Camp Klahanee is closed for FY23.

Why are there no maintenance projects for Camp Towhee?

Camp Towhee is currently classified as a primitive campsite, meaning there is no year-round water or bathroom facilities on site. We are kicking off a camp visioning project that will allow us to understand and update the programming at of our camp properties. The focus for this next year is rebuilding our camp program team and maintaining the infrastructure we currently have at each of our properties.

Will council look at changing the permit for Camp Towhee?

At this point in time, there are no plans to alter the permit for Camp Towhee.

Does council pursue grant money for camp programs or camp properties?

Yes, we received significant grant funding in FY22 and continue to pursue funding opportunities to support our properties and programs. The Murdock Foundation funded three maintenance positions over three years across three camp properties. The Cheney Foundation is funding the septic work at Camp Lyle McLeod. We received funding to replace the outboard motor on Camp Robbinswold's sounder and replaced a few sea kayaks. Our corporate funding efforts focus on subsidizing camp programs, which include property maintenance in their budgets. Corporate groups have also expressed interest in work parties that could potentially include volunteer matching for the camps themselves.

How do you track and tabulate volunteer hours given to camp maintenance, and determine its monetary value?

We currently use the Microsoft standard of \$25.00/hour to value volunteer hours, and we do need a better way to tabulate hours. We are exploring online systems for volunteers to self-submit their hours. However, we did not budget to implement a new system this

fiscal year. We deeply value every contribution our volunteers make to support camp, and we aim to support our volunteers as best as possible.

Are there any plans to add program facilities like archery at camps that don't have them, for example, at Camp Robbinswold?

We are developing a long-term strategy around council-wide camp programming opportunities. This year's focus continues to be rebuilding our camp program and property teams while maintaining our infrastructure at each of our properties.

I would expect that you would be able to pay for your operational costs. Why do you need donations for camp operations costs now?

Girl Scout camps have always operated at a deficit and not generated enough revenue to balance costs. Revenues offset some of our costs, but we have continuously operated with a funding gap. Camp program fees, harvest income, rental revenues, the product program, and current philanthropy efforts still leave a \$1,400,000 funding gap that is not sustainable long term. As we rebuild our camp participation numbers, we hope to grow the number of youth being served and our program fee revenue. However, even in our best years, camp never fully funded itself. We rely on our community of donors to help us safeguard our properties from economic volatility and help us keep camp programming within reach for most families. Through sustained philanthropic support, we create a safety net to protect our camp programs and properties.

Why are you asking for monthly or multi-year annual gifts/pledges?

We need reliable income streams to best sustain our camps and plan for their future needs. When you make it known that you plan to donate monthly, quarterly, or annually, we can estimate the revenues coming in and align our expenses more accurately. Your sustained support helps us create accurate and timely plans to care for our camps now and into the future, supporting our mission and sharing the magic of camp with as many Girl Scouts as possible.

Camp Klahanee

Who are you selling Camp Klahanee to?

At this time, we have no legally signed documents and cannot disclose the potential buyer. When we receive permission to share this information, we will include it in communication updates regarding Camp Klahanee. We are committed to ensuring that the prospective new owners of Camp Klahanee align with our Girl Scout values and mission, will continue to provide access and programming opportunities to both Girl Scouts and the greater Hoquiam community, and preserve both the natural and historical assets of Camp Klahanee.

Will Camp Klahanee re-open?

Due to safety concerns, Girl Scouts of Western Washington decided to keep Camp Klahanee closed last summer while we reopened our other six camp properties after their

closures due to the pandemic. The safety of our Girl Scouts, staff, and volunteers is our highest priority, and Camp Klahanee will remain closed.

What are the safety issues preventing us from re-opening Klahanee?

Camp Klahanee was closed during the COVID-19 quarantine, and we did not have staff on site to maintain the property or keep up on required state safety measures such as testing water and wells. The site manager's house is not in livable condition, and the immediate land around it is not safe for Girl Scout access.

Why hasn't council made the necessary repairs at Camp Klahanee?

While we evaluate our options for moving forward, we are focusing our energy on offering as many outdoor experiences as possible to Girl Scouts. We have seven camp properties across Western Washington, and each one requires significant and ongoing investment, support, and upkeep to meet ACA guidelines and ensure the safety and security of our camp participants.

Our camp properties exist to provide mission critical programs and do not generate profit. We subsidize all our camp properties and programs by over \$2 million per year. Camp Klahanee in particular has historically only generated enough revenue to cover about 2% of its annual maintenance costs. There are significant investments needed in Camp Klahanee that GSWW cannot afford. We understand that Camp Klahanee has historical value and significance to Girl Scouts and therefore are exploring this stewardship opportunity as a way to allow continued Girl Scout access to Camp Klahanee, open Camp Klahanee to greater community access, and preserve the historical and natural resources on site under new ownership.

We are excited to continue offering overnight camp programs next summer at Camp Robbinswold, Camp River Ranch, and Camp St. Albans—in addition to several community camp options at Camp Lyle McLeod. Many volunteer groups also host summer day camps at our camp properties and across the region. Additionally, Camp Evergreen, Camp Lyle McLeod, Camp River Ranch, Camp Robbinswold, Camp St. Albans, and Camp Towhee will all remain available for site reservations for troop getaways, service unit encamporees, and other Girl Scout gatherings.

What will happen with the name tiles at camp Klahanee?

Members will receive additional communications offering the opportunity to pick up their tiles. We can also relocate name tiles to another camp property., or keep them at Camp Klahanee based on tile owner's preference.

When will we know more?

We will continue to keep our website updated with current information about Camp Klahanee and all our camp programming. If you have questions, please contact our customer care team at customercare@girlscoutsww.org or by calling 1(800) 541-9852.