

Summer Camp 2024

Guide to Camp

Day Camp at
Camp Mary Elizabeth
in Spartanburg

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A Day in the Life

Every day at camp brings a new adventure.

Activity blocks will be filled with programming such as traditional camp activities, badge work, and fun thematic activities. This includes activities such as songs, skits, water games, pool, archery, cooking, hiking, crafts, and more.

To keep camp life varied, we don't always follow the same schedule. We strive for a balance of structured activity and supervised free-play that encourages friendship building, creativity, and imagination.

	Schedule
8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Check-in
8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Flag and move to activities
9:00 - 12:00 p.m.	Morning blocks (2)
12:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Afternoon blocks (2)
2:30 - 4:00	Water fun
4:30 p.m.	Kapers and cleanup
5:00 - 5:30 p.m.	Check-out

Themes and Fun

Each week at camp is different! To see the descriptions of each week at camp and to register, visit our website!

June 3 - 7: Spotlight Stars

June 10 - 14: Lego Ladies

June 17 - 21: Creature Campers

June 24 - 28: Splish, Splash

Give your week an extra kick of fun by taking part in these theme days:

Tuesday: Tie-Dye Tuesday

Wednesday: Crazy Sock Wednesday

Friday: Camp Shirt Day (all camp shirts welcome!)



Snacks and Lunch

Campers need to bring their lunch to camp **everyday**. All campers should have a lunch bag/box that has their name on it and should be reasonably durable as it will be coming back and forth each day. We will be storing our lunches in the shade during program times. However, please provide cold packs for your camper's lunch if needed. Camper's lunches will not be placed inside of refrigerators. Don't forget to pack utensils as your camper may need.

Dietary Needs

Please make sure your camper's health history is complete on CampDoc to help us prepare for any dietary needs. We often enjoy cooking activities during camp!

Snacks

Girls will be offered a snack each day to enjoy in the afternoon. We also enjoy creating snacks during camp!

Peanuts

GSSC—MM camps are all peanut free facilities; please make sure your camper's lunch is safe for everyone.

Hungry Campers!

Campers tend to be way hungrier with all the exciting physical activity! Please try to pack a little bit extra for your camper's lunch. When campers arrive, they should have had a healthy, substantial breakfast. Campers may also bring their breakfast to enjoy between 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.

Water, Juice, & Soda

All campers need a full, reusable water bottle everyday.

Durable, insulated, and with a carry strap is best.

During lunch, campers can enjoy juice pouches and boxes, however, we ask that you do not pack powder packets for water bottles. We also ask that you do not pack soda. We need to keep your camper properly hydrated as much as

Facilities

Camp Mary Elizabeth located in the heart of Spartanburg features the camp experience centrally located in the city.

Lodge: The lodge offers a wide open concept room where games, activities, and friendship can take place on rainy days. It has a kitchen for cooking!

Holston Creek & Happy Rock: Sit and listen to the water rush or take a creek hike! Don't forget your water shoes as you investigate the area. Hopefully, you will see some fish or even a turtle!

Archery Range: Take aim at our archery range (age restricted to Brownies, 2nd grade, and up).

Gaga Pit: Play to win in our gaga pit! Gaga ball is a fun and safe version of dodge ball that any age can play

Endless Hikes: Miles of trails all over the camp to hike and explore.



Check-In and Check-Out

To make this process as quick as possible, please have children ready with their belongings. More specific details about arrival and departure procedures below.

Arrival

Approach Camp Mary Elizabeth from W. O. Ezell Boulevard and Pinebrook Road. Turn right onto Pinebrook Road and keep to the right as the road curves and heads down a lane towards Scout Drive. There will be a sign at the bottom of the hill that points towards the main entrance (red star).

The gates (past the red star) will be open from 8:00 –9:00 a.m. Please remain in your car during the check-in process.

Please be sure to have a **pen** nearby as you will need to sign your camper into camp.

Any campers being dropped off later than 9:00 a.m. will need to call the Camp Director. Information will be provided right before camp.



Departure

Pick-up follows the same flow of traffic from 5:00 – 5:30 p.m. The caregiver picking up will need to be listed on the pick-up authorization form and will need to present a photo I.D.

Medical

Be sure to thoroughly fill out your camper's medical history forms on CampDoc once this information is sent to you in early 2024. This allows our staff to prepare for any needs your camper may have. During check-in or beforehand, please address any medical concerns with our Camp Director.

Medications

Please bring all of your camper's medicine that they may need during the day with you to check-in each morning. Medication is defined as any substance a person takes/uses to maintain her health.

All non-rescue medications are kept by our onsite staff and are administered according to the instructions written on the label by the physician. If your camper requires specific type of food with her medication, please provide it, but remember that camp is a peanut-free environment.

Safety standards require that all medications are in their original containers with labels indicating the camper's name, dosage, and administration instructions. Please be sure to put these in a Ziploc bag with camper's full name on it.

If your camper requires a rescue medication such as an inhaler or epi-pen, please provide TWO. Rescue medication will be noted by the Camp Director but should be taken directly to the counselor during check-in. The rescue medication is carried by her counselor.

Special Needs and Concerns

It is our hope to be able to remain inclusive and to serve all girls wishing to attend camp. In many cases accommodations can be made, but each camper must be able to function safely adult-to-camper ratios listed in our Safety Activity Checkpoints. Providing a safe and positive experience to all campers is extremely important to us. We reserve the right to make decisions about participation based on the extent of the girl's needs and our ability to meet those needs in a camp setting. Please contact the Camp Director if you have any questions or concerns about your camper attending camp.

Daily Packing List

Having the right items with you makes camp so much more fun! Campers are encouraged to wear play clothes—we'll get messy!

Mandatory Items:

- Socks and full lace up, comfortable tennis shoes-** We will be hiking and playing games! We don't want any shoes left behind!
- Day Backpack-** Full straps is best and with enough room for everything!
- Durable water bottle -** While insulated types are a little more expensive, they tend to keep water colder long which will keep your camper drinking! They also tend to be more durable. A carry strap is a good addition to keep your camper's hands free to explore.
- Lunch in separate lunch bag/box-** Durable, temperature controlled will help your camper's sandwich stay cool! Remember to add an ice pack and some reusable silverware if needed. Please remember we are a peanut free camp.
- Sunscreen (SPF 30+)
- Bug spray
- Bathing suit
- Beach Towel
- Wet bag/ Plastic bag for wet clothes
- Rain coat or poncho
- Bandana - Necessary for campfires to keep hair back!
- Water shoes or caged sandals for water activities: Old tennis shoes work well or Keens/Crocs with full toed cage and back strap (no Chacos or Texas).**

Optional Items:

- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Brush/comb, hair ties
- Disposable camera

Please remember to label all items. Camp staff are not responsible for lost items, but will make every effort to get missing items back to you.

Please do not bring:

Electronics or other technology
Cell phones
Gum or Candy
Soda
Expensive items
Matches or candles
Pocket knives
Irreplaceable items
Personal sports equipment

S'more Information

What paperwork do we need to bring? Most paperwork is completed online ahead of time using CampDoc. If you have trouble completing or uploading a form, please reach out to customer care or bring it to check-in.

Can I bring my pet to check-in/check-out (out of the vehicle)? No. Family pets are not allowed on any camp property, including during camp check-in and check-out.

Where can I smoke on property during check-in/check-out? Smoking is not permitted on any camp property by staff or visitors.

What if my camper is homesick? Our counselors are all trained to help campers with the adjustment to camp life. Generally, girls are comfortable within a couple days. However, if your camper is excessively homesick, team members will call home.

What if my camper doesn't know any other girls at camp? Your child will make new friends at camp! Our camp staff are trained to lead games and activities that allow the girls to get to know each other, work together, and share their individual personalities with the whole group! With their counselor's guidance, your camper will have a blast with her new friends!

Can my camper bring electronics to camp? Cell phones, televisions, iPods, radios or game devices (anything with a screen) are not allowed at camp.

What happens if the weather is bad? Weather is closely monitored by the Camp Director. Our staff is trained to carry out emergency procedures in the event of a weather-related emergency at camp. Depending on the type and severity of the weather situation, certain camp activities may be canceled or postponed in order to ensure the safety of our campers and staff.

Is there anything we can't bring to camp? Electronic devices, pocket knives, cash, expensive clothing or other expensive items.

Can I visit camp to see my camper? Visitors are not allowed during the day.

S'more Information

Who are your staff members? Camp staff go through a week of training, including CPR and First Aid, safety and risk management, emergency response, activity leadership and outdoor skills, how to support campers' mental health (including homesickness and bullying), and much more. Staff who supervise specialized activities (such as swimming and archery) have additional training and qualifications.

Do you background check your staff? Yes. All of our staff members pass applications, interviews, reference checks, drug and criminal background checks before the start of every summer.

How will I know my camper is being supervised properly? Camp staff members are specially trained to focus on each camper's well-being and safety. Supervision not only includes making sure girls are safe during activities, but also that they are drinking water, applying sunscreen, and that healthy relationships are growing in their groups. Girl Scouts place a high priority on safety and train staff in all aspects of camp life - from leading activities to cooking over a campfire. Our goal is to carefully prepare and plan for each camp experience with your camper in mind.

What number do I call if I need to reach camp for an Emergency during my camper's session? Please call the Camp Director. Remember that while we do check messages frequently, we spend most of our time out in camp with the girls, so it may take us a little bit to check your message and get back to you.

We are eager to share this summer with
our amazing campers.
Let us know if you have any additional
questions at
Customercare@gssc-mm.org