



# Parent Guide 2021

**Welcome to the 2021 Camp Season! We can't wait to see you!**

Safety is our top priority at Camp Amity Acres. We have made accommodations to secure the health and well-being of all campers, families, and staff while upholding our standard of quality care and outdoor fun! We know our children need camp more than ever for their physical, emotional and psychological well being. We are the camp for you, and we thank you for choosing us.

At Camp Amity Acres, we have a variety of different activities for campers to participate in – archery, arts & crafts, nature, swimming, boating, badgework and much more. As a Girl Scout run day camp, we strive to instill in girls the courage, confidence, and character that will help them to be successful throughout their life. Whether it's making new friends or learning a new skill at camp, girls make friendships and memories that last a lifetime!

Please be sure to hold onto this camp guide as it has a lot of helpful information for you to refer back to throughout the summer.

**This guide contains:**

- Health & Safety
- What To Bring
- What We Provide
- Procedurals
- Benefits to your camper
- Contact Information



## Health & Safety

- We had a successful COVID-free summer in our 2020 season!
- We have taken courses, webinars and Zoom classes offered from the American Camp Association and other organizations on how to keep our campers safe this summer.
- We have limited sized units of up to 20 campers so we can better practice social distancing.
- Our Unit Leaders have a pack with hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes, and a mask to help mitigate risk. They have been trained on how and when to use these supplies.
- Specialists utilize face shields and masks when giving instruction to campers within 6-feet.
- We will maintain social distancing in our groups of campers.
- One group (unit) will travel together for their activities and stay together all week and will not co-mingle with other units. Campers will sanitize their hands after each activity.
- All equipment will be sanitized after each use.
- Each unit will hold their own flag ceremony at their unit.
- We will not offer campfire with a buffet this summer.
- Drop-off is carpool-line style. We ask families upon arrival a brief health survey and take temperatures of campers. Campers will sanitize their hands before they enter camp.
- Extra sanitizing will continue to be done at restrooms. Cans of disinfectant and sanitizing wipes are at each restroom door so counselors can spray toilet handles, door handles and faucets.
- Pick-up is structured so adults will stay in their cars and have their campers brought to them.
- We ask that while you are a camp family, you practice safe social distancing while away from camp, use face-coverings and be aware of where you go.
- If your camper is ill or injured and needs to be sent home, you will be called and are required to make arrangements for your child to be picked up in a reasonable amount of time.
- If a child is ill, shows flu like symptoms, has a fever or is vomiting, the camper MUST be picked up and cannot return to camp until she/he is symptom free for 72 hours without medication.



## What Your Camper Needs for a Successful Camp Experience

### Check List:

- Mask or face-covering
- Comfortable outdoor clothing; Change of clothes (campers may get wet during camp activities)
- Sneakers or other closed toe/closed heel shoes (Crocs with backs are acceptable)
- Spare pair of shoes and socks (campers may get wet during camp activities)
- Bathing suit and towel
- Sunscreen (non-aerosol)
- Hat, cap, hair tie or bandana
- Insect repellent (non- aerosol)
- Raincoat or poncho (hopefully we won't need these much!) **No umbrellas, please.**
- Lunch (with drink) - marked with name and unit – lunches will be stored in a cooler until lunch
- Refillable water bottle
- Small hand sanitizer (not required but ok to bring)

**HELPFUL TIP: Clearly print your camper's name on everything with permanent ink.** Campers will get dirty and sometimes wet– all in the name of fun! GSJS is **not** responsible for personal items brought to camp.

### We provide:

- Water is available all day in each unit and activity area
- A fun-filled day of adventure and activity
- Hand sanitizer throughout camp
- More hand washing stations and specified hand washing times after activities
- Cleaning and sanitizing high touch points/areas in camp
- Dedicated cleaning person paying close attention to our bathrooms
- Sanitizing all equipment and supplies used after each use
- Extra attention to health and safety of our campers, staff and families

### Please note the following:

**No cell phones**, smart watches, radios, iPods, iPads, tablets, e-readers, or electronic games, etc. are allowed in camp. These items will be collected and may be picked up by an adult at the end of the camp day in the Infirmary. **Telephones are available at the Infirmary for emergency use.**

Camp is a smoke and drug free facility. No weapons, firearms, fireworks, or drugs are permitted.

We love your pets as much as you do but animals or pets are not allowed in camp. They cannot be at drop-off or pick-up at the end of the day.



## Procedurals

**Forms:** Please complete all of the online forms and update your authorized pickups, no later than two weeks prior to your child's first day of camp.

These are the forms that must be completed prior to your child participating in camp with us:

- Camper Information
- Health History
- Immunization record
- Code of Ethics
- Policies and Reminder

To re-access forms, log in to your account at [www.amityacresdaycamp.com](http://www.amityacresdaycamp.com). Click on Additional Options from the top toolbar under the camp logo and choose Document Center. Incomplete forms will be listed in **red**.

Children are only permitted to participate in camp activities when all forms are complete. Forms **MUST** be completed as soon as possible, with the **final deadline two weeks prior to your child's first day of camp**. **Do not delay** the completion of all the forms. Please complete the forms to the best of your ability and contact us via email to notify us of the delay in getting the health forms completed. We will review this information and contact you if there is a problem.

**Medications:** ALL medication **MUST** come in a labeled container and be given to the Health Supervisor upon arrival at camp. A written note must accompany the medication, if it is not listed on the online health forms.

**Time:** Camp is in operation from **9:00am-4:00pm**. We will be accepting campers at 8:30am. Pick up will be from **3:30-4:15**. If you need to pick up your camper early, please call 732-751-2755 so we may have your camper ready for you at the Infirmary, **BEFORE 2:45 pm. Campers will not be able to be brought to the infirmary for early pick up after 2:45pm**, as campers will be finishing up their day and cleaning up.

**Camper Pick-Up:** Only authorized adults listed in the Authorized Pick-Ups section on the Account Detail page of your online account will be allowed to pick up your child. **Photo ID MUST be presented for signing out campers. All adults will be required to show proper identification and remain in their vehicles.** Any changes to authorized pick-ups must be submitted in writing prior to pick-up.

**Early Dismissal Pick-Up:** For early dismissal, please send a note in with your camper or call the infirmary to make arrangements. **Any early pickups must be BEFORE 2:45pm.** We do our best to have your camper ready and waiting outside of the Infirmary with a staff member. Sometimes, the activity scheduled for your camper may cause some delay in getting her/him prepared for early pick-up. **Photo ID MUST be presented.**



**TICKS:** Our camp undergoes a controlled burn in the spring and is sprayed for ticks beginning in April and throughout the summer. While we do take precautions on our end, we ask that you also discuss tick-safety with your child. Staying on the paths in camp is essential!

**By taking proper precautions, you can limit your exposure to ticks:**

- 🍀 Wear white socks and sneakers
- 🍀 Light colored clothing is recommended
- 🍀 Always stay near the center of the trails
- 🍀 Avoid walking through brush and undergrowth
- 🍀 Check camper for ticks when arriving home

**Lost and Found:** GSJS, Inc. is NOT responsible for valuables brought to camp. Do not bring items you do not wish to share or that do not relate to camp. If you do happen to lose something, there will be a lost-and-found behind the trading post. **Items uncollected from the prior week will be donated to a local charity.**

**Parent communication:** The Health Supervisor will call home in case of sudden illness such as vomiting, fever, broken bones, and other serious illness or injury. In case of other emergencies, parents will receive an email with updates on emergencies that affect camp, as well as text notifications if signed up for text messaging alerts.

**Absentees:** If your child will be absent, please notify the Infirmary. Office staff may email or call to check-in.

**On-site registration:** There are NO on-site registrations this summer. **All registrations are done online.**

**Visiting camp:** Due to the current health crisis, we will not be accepting visitors in camp this summer.

**Trading Post:** This year the Trading Post will be an online shopping experience. Ice cream is available for pre-purchase through your camp account. Ice cream will be delivered to campers during a set time each day.

**Statement of Discipline and Expulsion:** At Camp Amity Acres, discipline is handled with much thought and care. We use two methods of discipline with our campers. First, counselors are taught to redirect the child by focusing their attention on an appropriate activity. Second, we use positive reinforcement with all campers. If a camper displays repeated inappropriate behaviors, they will be sent to the camp director's office for a conversation and possibly a phone call home. If a serious issue arises, steps may be taken to suspend or expel a camper. Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore reserves the right to dismiss a child from camp whose special circumstances we are not able to meet or whose conduct is not in the best interest of the entire camp community. Please see the Camper's Code of Conduct for more information about proper behavior at camp.



## Camp Outcomes: Our Commitment to Excellence Helps your Child Benefit

- Children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century are suffering from “Nature Deficit Disorder.” Therefore, our aim is to have all campers gain an appreciation of the outdoors along with acquiring a respect for nature. Many of our programs either have an overt or subliminal emphasis on the environment.
- Campers will develop and maintain healthy relationships by meeting new friends in camp.
- Taking on new experiences and challenges allow campers to take appropriate risks and try new activities such as archery!
- While in the outdoors, campers will make new discoveries and expand their confidence in themselves and their abilities.
- All girls between the ages of 5 to 18 will be registered in the Girl Scout Movement, Girl Scouts of the USA for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021. New girl members who opted for the extended year membership upon registration will be registered in the Girl Scouts Movement through September 30, 2022.

## Contact Information

Should you have any questions regarding the daily happenings at camp or if you need to cancel or change week(s) call Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore at **(800) 785-2090** and **Speak with a Customer Care Associate** (press “0” for a Customer Care Associate). If you would like to speak to a camp supervisor, ask a Customer Care Associate to speak with **Melissa Halk, Camp Administrator** and leave a message. She will return calls within two business days.

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