

Summer Camp FAQ: Camp Comstock

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General Comstock FAQs

What is the American Camp Association?

The American Camp Association (ACA) is a national organization that sets the highest standards for the camping industry, which include the oversight of health and safety of campers and staff, and the delivery of quality programming. Being an ACA-accredited facility means we have agreed to meet standards higher than that of our state health department, in order to ensure the highest possible quality of programming. Comstock is reaccredited every five years.



Who are the staff?

Our staff are enthusiastic, talented and caring individuals who are selected based on their experience, ability to serve as positive role models, and genuine desire to work with children. Staff have a variety of talents to help your girl learn and grow at camp, ranging from the performing arts to outdoor living skills! Many of our staff return year after year, and new staff members are recruited from the greater Girl Scout community, as well as local colleges and universities. We also hire staff from Camp America, an organization that provides camp staff from Great Britain, for a little international flair! Background checks and extensive interviews are completed for all staff. Staff working directly with campers at day camp are at least 16 years old. Staff working directly with campers at resident camp are at least 18 years old.

Where is Comstock located?

1419 Taughannock Blvd., Ithaca, NY 14850

What if my girl needs medical attention while at camp?

Comstock is staffed with a Health Supervisor whose certification and training level is in compliance with NYS Department of Health requirements. The Health Supervisor is onsite 24/7 while camp is in session and oversees the routine health care and administration of medications for all campers and staff. The Health Supervisor oversees the health check-in process on the first day of camp, which includes a lice check of all campers. The Health Supervisor is trained to identify health issues that require more advanced medical attention. Parents will be notified in the event of an emergency.

What activities are offered?

Each camper who enrolls in classic camp or day camp gets the opportunity to participate in her choice of four core program areas every day for an hour block each. These activities include arts and crafts, sports and recreation, dance, theater, ukulele, archery, swimming, boating, nature and STEM, hiking, fishing and outdoor living skills.

In addition to classic camp activities, limited space is available for various age levels in specialty add-on programming both on- and off-camp for an additional cost, including horseback riding, sailing and more! Some specialty add-ons are only available to resident campers. Check out our 2020 Summer Camp Guide and your registration for more detailed information.

Girls who enroll in Take the Stage, Paddlers or the CIT Program will follow their own unique camp schedule.

Each week of camp has a theme—so make sure to check our detailed packing list in the confirmation packet, as campers are encouraged to bring props and/or costumes from home!

Can I visit camp?

Come join us for one of our two Open Houses on Friday, May 1 or Thursday, June 25. Families are welcome to see and tour the camp and meet the Camp Director and staff. [Visit Doubleknot](#) to register for these opportunities. Parents may not visit their camper while camp is in session.

How do I contact staff while camp is in session?

Camp Director Mandi Miller can always be reached via email at Mmiller@gsnypenn.org. The camp phone number during the summer is 607.273.6742. If summer camp is not currently in session, you can reach us at 1.855.213.8555 for assistance.

When will the trading post be open?

Items will be available for sale at the Trading Post on opening and closing day, during arrival and departure. Cash, checks, credit cards and Cookie Dough cards can be used to purchase items. Items for sale include t-shirts, patches, bracelets and other small souvenirs specific to camping, just to name a few. Call (607) 724-6572 x2417 to pre-order camp gear or order it online when you register!

Resident Camp FAQs

Can my girl be placed in the same unit with her friend?

Girls must be registered into the same camp in order to bunk together. Bunking assignments are based on age and program.

Girls attending Paddlers, Take the Stage, or CIT will automatically be placed in the same sleeping arrangements together, nothing special is required during registration. During the paperwork process, you'll be asked for a bunkmate request. Please make sure the bunkmate lists your girl, too! Please note: campers may not request more than one bunkmate.

For campers attending classic camp or mini session, please note Village Unit age groups:

Classic Camp:

Susan B. Anthony: Brownies/Juniors

Harriet Tubman: Juniors

Laura Ingalls Wilder: Juniors/Cadettes

Christa McAuliffe: Cadettes/Seniors/Ambassadors

Mini Session:

Susan B. Anthony: Daisies/Brownies

Harriet Tubman: Brownies/Juniors

Laura Ingalls Wilder: Juniors

Christa McAuliffe: Cadettes/Seniors/Ambassadors

When registering for classic camp or mini session, please make sure you have registered her for the same Village Unit as her buddy. During the paperwork process, you'll be asked for a bunkmate request. Please make sure the bunkmate lists your girl, too! Please note: campers may not request more than one bunkmate.

If you have a specific bunkmate request that may require special accommodations, please [contact Camp Director Mandi Miller](#) directly to discuss your situation.

What are the sleeping arrangements?

All classic camp and mini session attendees sleep in village cabin units. Each cabin sleeps up to eight girls, has bunk beds, storage cubbies and overhead lighting.

Campers attending CIT or Paddlers sleep in the Merrywomen platform tent unit. Each platform tent sleeps up to four campers on cots and does not have overhead lighting.

We encourage you and your girl to attend an Open House so that you are familiar with all sleeping units at camp.

What will my girl eat at resident camp?

Our Food Service team prepares a variety of pleasing and nutritious meals appropriate for children. Camp food isn't what it used to be! We serve plenty of fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, eggs and breads. Healthy snacks are provided in the afternoons to fuel the fun!

Can special diets be accommodated at resident camp?

We regularly provide vegetarian, gluten-free, nut-free and dairy-free alternatives throughout the camp season. Our Special Diets Coordinator ensures each camper with dietary needs has an adequate substitution or modified meal that meets their needs. If you have allergies or special dietary needs, please [contact Camp Director Mandi Miller](#) prior to camp to discuss your requirements. Or, if you call us at camp (direct phone number listed above) any time after June 17, you can speak to the Food Service team directly! We are often able to provide everything your girl needs at camp, but if not, we'll work to find a solution!

How can I contact my girl during resident camp?

In the confirmation packet, you'll find information needed to contact your girl during her stay. We encourage you to write her, but remember it is often necessary to post-mark mail prior to her departure to ensure she receives it in a timely manner. When you complete your health forms using CampDoc, you'll see you can send emails to your girl via the CampGrams service for a small fee.

Can I mail a care package with food in it or send food with my camper?

Care packages are encouraged, but please no food in packages or luggage. It attracts those cute but unwanted animals to explore the units.

Day Camp FAQs

What will my girl eat at day camp?

At day camp, all campers are required to bring their own bagged lunch every day. An afternoon snack is provided by camp. If your camper has a severe food allergy or restriction that you are concerned about, please [contact Camp Director Mandi Miller](#). Refrigeration can be provided upon request. Please do not send your camper with any food that needs to be cooked or reheated.

Who should I contact if my pick-up or drop-off plans change?

If there is a change in your pick-up or drop-off plans, please contact camp directly or [email Camp Director Mandi Miller](#) as soon as possible to make the appropriate arrangements.

Is transportation available?

Yes! A van runs from Ithaca High School. Morning pick-up is around 8:40 a.m. and afternoon drop-off is around 5:00 p.m. The transportation fee is \$50 per week. Transportation sign-up is part of the camp registration process in DoubleKnot.