Curious about life at Camp Whispering Pines?

Here are the answers to our most frequently asked questions:

What does an average day at camp look like?

As a camp counselor, each day will look a little different than the last! At the beginning of each week, the counselors in each unit design their group's schedule for that session. We also want to make sure we have room for Girl Scout-led input, so Camp is a very flexible place.

Each morning, campers and counselors rise and shine around 7 a.m. to make it to our flag ceremony and breakfast at 8 a.m.! After breakfasts each unit will separate to enjoy some activity time before lunch at noon. Activities can include archery, low ropes courses, high ropes (for the older campers), art shack, or games set by the counselors in any of the communal spaces around camp! We have a plethora of supplies that counselors can choose from to create fun and memorable moments for the campers during these activity slots.

We also have lots of occasional activities. For example, if you're one of our counselors that stay with our older campers, you'll go to Rose Canyon Lake for canoeing once. And everyone goes on one hike a week with a bag lunch!

After lunch at noon, the entire camp enters HOT. time! HOT time is a counselor's bread and butter. HOT stands for Hour of Tranquility. Campers and counselors alike return to their units for 60 full minutes of quiet time. Campers can read, take a nap, or quietly keep each other company outside of their bungalows. Following HOT time, refreshed and rejuvenated, we then begin our specialty sessions! Counselors design these sessions themselves, and campers sign up to join whichever suits their interests best. Some of our specialty sessions from last year include theater, archery, camp beautification, and outdoor skills! If you have a special interest that you want to bring to camp this summer, a special session is a great space to let it shine! After specialty sessions we have snack time (sometimes a frosty treat) outside of the Lodge before units once again separate for in-unit activity time!

At 5 p.m. campers and counselors once again meet at the Lodge for dinner! Post-dinner activities change most often, with a new camp-wide activity to enjoy each night before bed. We have campfires, theme night, game nights, movie nights, and many more fun activities for the entire camp! After that, campers retire for the night. We typically encourage them to be in bed by 9 p.m., with quiet hours beginning at 10 p.m.

Where do we sleep?

Almost everyone at Camp Whispering Pines (aside from our chef and nurse) sleep in bungalows, or bungies, situated throughout the 16-acre camp! There is one bungie in every unit where the counselors and unit leader sleep, while the remaining bungies will be home to our campers each week.

Every bungie is open air but features a sturdy roof and heavy weatherproof curtains. There are screens over the open 'window' spaces to keep the critters out. Most importantly, as of summer 2024 all bungies will feature brand new beds! Not all of our bungies have electricity, and our bungies are rustic - think glamping!

Do we get breaks?

Yes! All camp staff get a two-hour break each full day of camp! Staff break times are scheduled at the beginning of each week. Staff are welcome to go offsite, hike, return to their bungies, shower, make use of the staff nap lounge, hang out in the break room, or anything else that will help them feel rested and taken care of.



What is the bathing situation like?

Camp Counselor staff use the ADA accessible shower house when bathing. This space is only available to campers if needed. If there is a session during which a camper will utilize this shower house, a strict schedule is put in place to ensure that everyone is comfortable and respected.

The shower house features four private shower stalls. Camp staff can shower during their breaks or while the campers are asleep. At Camp Whispering Pines, we do harvest our water, and take pride in minimizing water waste as much as possible! Campers can shower two times a week for no more than 5 minutes. We ask that camp staff follow these guidelines too.

How do we get to camp?

There is limited parking at Camp Whispering Pines, and we are all about being Green! We encourage camp staff to carpool or take advantage of the staff shuttle we provide at the beginning and end of each session! All camp staff can meet at our Hacienda Program Center on Sabino Canyon Road and join us as we ride together up the mountain each week! Cars left at the Hacienda will be kept behind a locked gate for safekeeping for each camp session.

There seems to be so much jargon, I am having a hard time keeping it all straight. What is a unit? What about low ropes and high ropes?

Camp Whispering Pines is divided into four units! There will be a team of counselors and one unit leader assigned to each unit! Each unit is home to one age group of campers. Our units are named Down Yonder, Needles Gap, Faraway, and Saddle!

Our low ropes and high ropes courses are very popular activities for our campers! Low ropes features are scattered throughout the camp and consist of different obstacles that campers must work as a team to overcome. These features are available for use for all campers (under counselor supervision and guidance). The high ropes course is exclusively for our older campers. Eligible campers are given the opportunity to climb as high as they would like before being belayed back down.

How often do I get to go home?

Camp runs for just about six total weeks! Most weeks, camp staff will return home on Friday afternoons and report to camp on Sunday mornings. On any days when camp is not taking place, counselors should expect to be home (or we can make housing arrangements for staff needing accommodation). There are certain short camp sessions not required for all staff. CWP Family Camp and CWP Troop Camp 2 are both half-staff events! Each staff member is required to work 1-2 of these camp weekends and take the other off. As we approach camp season, we will determine who is assigned to each, but please begin considering which works best for you!

How do you get your camp name?

Your camp name is your decision! Some staff prefer to get a camp name from their fellow staff, while others elect to name themselves! Let your creativity run wild but be sure to pick something you will not get tired of hearing.

One of our assistant directors was named Peach by fellow camp staff, because she is sweet as a peach and loves peaches. Cricket, another assistant director, named herself after her favorite bug!

How old are the campers at this camp? How many will I be responsible for?

During our normal camp sessions, campers at CWP range in age from eight to 17 years old! Younger campers are permitted at troop and family camps, though they will primarily be the responsibility of their caregivers during that time.

Counselors work as a team to care for one unit of campers, the size of which can range from roughly 10 to 25 Girl Scouts! There are generally two to three counselors per unit and one unit leader.



What is the terrain like at camp? How about the weather?

Our camp is just over 16 acres on mountainous terrain! In addition to navigating the camp, counselors also periodically lead 1- or 3-mile hikes off campus. Please feel free to check out the Camp Whispering Pines tour video to get a taste of what camp looks like!

CWP is on Mount Lemmon, at an elevation of nearly 8,000 feet. As such, the weather at camp is quite a bit cooler than Tucson. Nighttime temperatures can get as low as 50 degrees, while days typically hover around 75-80 degrees. During monsoon season, it does occasionally rain at camp! We have plenty of fun activities indoors to enjoy during our few rainy days.

So, we do archery, canoeing, light backpacking, and tent camping? What if I don't have any experience with these activities?

We provide all necessary training for camp staff before camp begins! All counselors will be trained in archery during camp training.

Not all counselors will participate in canoeing, backpacking, or tent camping. Backpacking and tent camping will only occur during one session of camp, the CWP Offsite Overnight. We will provide tents & training for our participating staff!

How are we trained for camp?

Counselors participate in a weeklong training program to prepare for camp! This training includes several days of instruction at the Tucson Girl Scouts office and several days of on-site training at camp. During this time, counselors will gain all the tools they need to have a successful and fun summer at camp, regardless of previous camp experience level.

How about food, what will I eat?

At Camp Whispering Pines, we have a chef and kitchen staff that prepare all meals during camp! We provide breakfast (with coffee for staff), lunch, afternoon snack, and dinner. Counselors are welcome to bring their own snacks to camp, though these must be stored in the lodge and kept away from all campers/critters. Please note that Camp Whispering Pines is a nut-free facility.

Our kitchen is well equipped to handle a range of dietary restrictions, so please do let us know how we can accommodate you!

Will I be expected to be ready to work throughout the night?

Given the nature of our work at camp, there are times when counselors are woken up during the night to provide support for their campers. You will always have the support of your Nurse and director overnight too! We encourage counselors to equally divide this responsibility between themselves to ensure that no one person in any given unit is responsible for all nighttime disturbances. This responsibility obviously varies based on the age group you are working with, and the campers' comfort level outdoors.

