

*Sample letter for Brownie/Daisy Camping trip:*

Dear parents and guardians,

To make this campout a success, your daughter's comfort is very important. We camp in the rain or sunshine. We are going to have a terrific time, but I can't stress enough the importance of being prepared. We cannot make a girl warmer if she has brought the wrong clothing or sleeping bag. We cannot medicate her without written permission, so please do not send her with a bad cold or sore throat. The first camping experiences are the most important to future successful campouts.

We have a few simple but necessary requests:

1. Do not pack her duffle bag. Let her! I help my daughter gather all her gear on her bedroom floor, then she puts it into her bag. She will know where things are. She should pack her boots, jacket and flashlight on top.
2. Day pack. A small one that fits her water bottle and an extra layer or jacket.
3. Water bottle. Non-leaking.
4. Sleeping bag. Put an extra blanket inside the bag in case it gets cold. . The pillow should be rolled in the sleeping bag to stay dry; small ones work best
5. Sleep clothing: warm pajamas, wool/fleece hat and gloves, and wool socks.
6. Warm jacket. Packed on top of her bag if she is not wearing it.
7. Flashlight. Make sure it works, and then turn the batteries around so it won't turn on in the bag. Send extra batteries, no matter how new the first set is.
8. Send old clothes. The ones that don't require saving if they get torn or stained.
9. Label everything. All mess kits look alike. Nail polish works well to paint her name on each piece. Don't forget each piece of silverware.
10. Dunk bag. A nylon mesh bag for washing dishes. Lingerie bags work great.
11. Long hair tied back. Pony tails and a bandana work best, especially around the fire.
12. Raincoat or poncho. Make sure it really is waterproof and isn't easily torn. I've seen a lot of cold, wet girls over the years.
13. Rainpants: a really good idea. They keep bottoms dry sitting on the ground, even if it isn't raining. Buy them big; they cuff up well.
14. No food/gum/candy in personal bags. I guarantee that night time visitors will come. It's not fun to wake up to a raccoon, or bear in your tent. Trust me.
15. Medication. All medicines must be given to the leader, with written instructions and permission. No leader or first aider can give any medication to your daughter without written permission from you.
16. Night accidents. If your girl is a bed wetter (there are quite a few), don't have her miss the campout. Send a plastic liner sewed to an old sheet for the first night, folded in the sleeping bag, and an extra set of sleeping clothes. She can then remove the liner for the second night, putting that and her pajamas into a garbage bag.
17. Clothes: Consider putting each complete change of clothes in a plastic bag so that they are easy to find. Send an extra set just in case. Bring a second pair of

sturdy shoes. For a weekend trip: 3 pair pants, 3 shirts, 3 underwear, 3 socks +2 wool pair. One swimsuit and towel.

18. Toilet articles. Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, wash cloth, hand towel, brush/comb, insect repellent, and sunscreen. Pack them together in a bag so that they are easy to carry to the bathroom. Depending on the camp, we may have a shower, but the girls won't use it except in rare circumstances.
19. Dress in layers. Example: t-shirt, wool or fleece sweater, jacket. She can take the layers off as the day warms up. Cotton is cold when wet. Consider leaving the sweatshirts home and bring a fleece vest, fleece coat, wool sweater, and raincoat. The combination of all four is pretty warm.
20. Wear to camp: waterproof shoes (tennis shoes are ok but bring a second pair!), wool socks, t-shirt, pants or jeans, sun hat.

If you have questions, call Janet Piehl, Encampment Leader, (Kari's mom) (206 275 0537) or email me at [anderpiehl@comcast.net](mailto:anderpiehl@comcast.net).

It's going to be a great weekend!

Janet