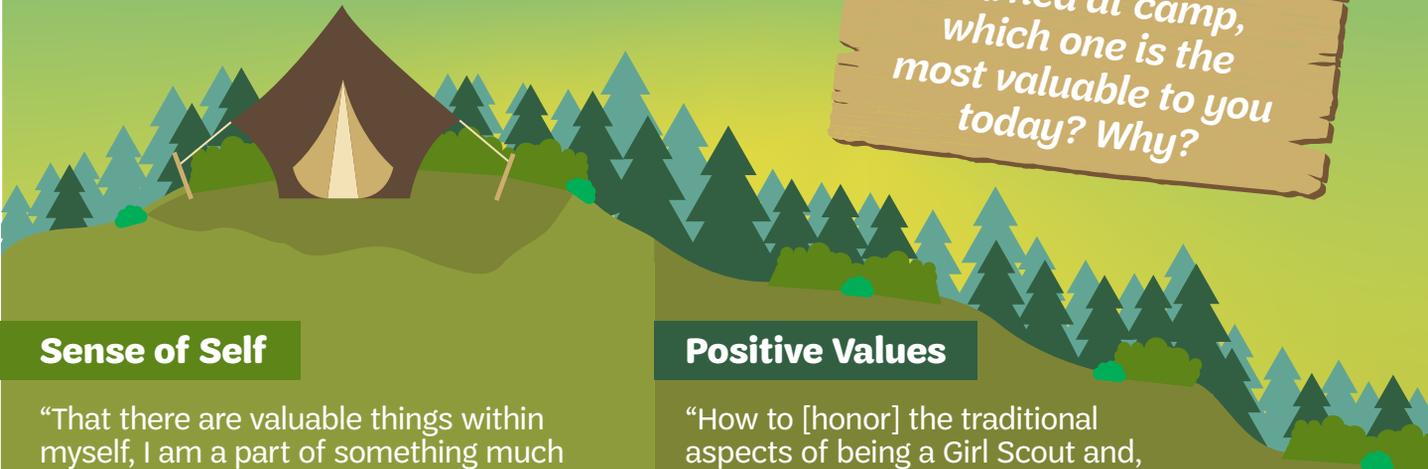
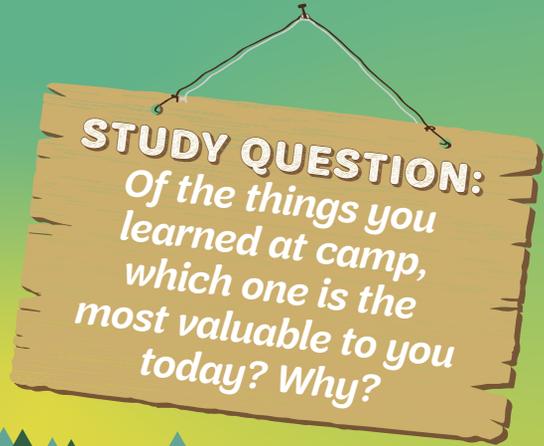




FROM GIRL SCOUT CAMP TO REAL-WORLD CHAMP!

How Girl Scouting in the Great Outdoors Builds Female Leaders

In 2018, the Girl Scout Research Institute collaborated with the American Camp Association to conduct a study of former Girl Scout campers. Here's what our camp alums had to say about their experiences.



Sense of Self

“That there are valuable things within myself, I am a part of something much bigger than myself, and I have worth in this world. Being surrounded by empowered, confident, and sometimes silly women inspired me. I wanted to be just like my leaders.”

(age 18, Camp Ledgewood, OH)

“[Camp] made me feel more comfortable about getting older, growing up, and becoming an adult. I had so many strong role models in the counselors, counselors in training, and interns, I knew growing up didn't mean losing your personality and sense of humor.”

(age 18, Camp Wind-in-the-Pines, MA)

“Our society [supports] such a social media-driven, attention-seeking lifestyle, it is hard to find self-worth in a world that constantly asks for “likes” and attention from others for reassurance. Camp gave me the confidence to believe in myself and my abilities and a sense of self-worth that I was unable to find through other [activities in] my life.”

(age 24, Camp Lou Henry Hoover, NJ)

Positive Values

“How to [honor] the traditional aspects of being a Girl Scout and, overall, the importance of being a good citizen/kind person.”

(age 18, Camp Mary Atkinson, NC)

“Compassion and empathy, because they make me a better person.”

(age 20, Camp Wind-in-the-Pines, MA)

“How to be positive and encouraging of others, as well as myself. These are skills that I will need not only in my career but in my everyday life.”

(age 20, Stevens Ranch, TX)

Challenge Seeking

“Other campers and staff pushed me to explore and try new things that I may not have done on my own. Today, I still continue to push myself to try new things, no matter how hard it can be at times.”

(age 19, Camp Wind-in-the-Pines, MA)

“Being open to experiences and trying new things with an open mind. Learning how to say ‘yes’ even when it is something I don't think I will like or be good at.”

(age 20, Camp Four Echoes, ID)



Appreciation for Nature

“[Girl Scout camp] showed me what I love—camping, hiking, backpacking, and just being outdoors.”

(age 18, Camp Tapawingo, IL)

“That it is important to take time out of your day to enjoy nature. Spending time outdoors is the biggest stress-relieving tool I have.”

(age 18, Camp Cloud Rim, UT)

“Appreciation for nature, because we have only one Earth and we need to treat it nicely.”

(age 44, Camp Lou Henry Hoover, NJ)

“All the ways to keep wildlife and nature safe, because they are important aspects of life.”

(age 18, Stevens Ranch, TX)

Healthy Relationships

“To value differences. It is something hugely important [to me] as a teacher, Girl Scout, parent, and human being.”

(age, 34, Camp Runels, NH)

“Working with others will get you much further in your career than talent and knowledge will. Both talent and knowledge are important, but having the ability to form relationships with the people you work with and for, and with your clients, means so much more.”

(age 22, Camp Cedarledge, MO)

“How to effectively communicate, because it is the basis of all other skills. If you cannot effectively communicate, you cannot effectively work well with others.”

(age 26, Camp Wildwood, FL)

Leadership/Teamwork

“Learning to be a leader came very naturally to me. But I also learned how to step back and let other people lead when appropriate—this is a very important skill as well.”

(age 18, Camp Runels, NH)

“Teamwork is the most valuable thing I learned at camp; I learned that no one can complete a task totally on their own.”

(age 18, Camp Tallchief, OK)

“I learned how to make a Plan B on the fly and pretend like it was Plan A.”

(age 18, Camp Sacajawea, NJ)