

Dear Campers and Parents;

Hello! I am the Camp Director, better known by my camp name “Sponge” during June and July. Camp Names are just one of the fun traditions at Camp Cahinnio – which will celebrate its 40th anniversary as a Girl Scout resident camp during the summer of 2008. Camping at Cahinnio is more than memorable traditions and good clean fun (although it is both of those!). It’s about a girl having new opportunities to stretch her wings and gain self-confidence and independence through experiences in the outdoors and in special areas that capture her interest.

What that means for every girl will be different – just as every girl is different. For yours it may mean talking your ear off about her adventures canoeing, clearing the dishes after dinner without being asked, or being more willing to attend school or Girl Scout outings where she may not know the other participants.

Our children’s day-to-day reality is a very different one than the one we grew up in. Today’s camper doesn’t remember life without cell phones, computers, and MP3 players, which are off-limits at camp. Camp is a place where the joy of a silly song is rediscovered and a campfire under the stars after a long day of swimming, canoeing, hiking, arts and crafts, and learning new skills is all the entertainment you need.

If you’ve ever visited Camp Cahinnio in the midst of the camp action or seen the valuable influence camp can have on your daughter’s attitude or belief in herself, then you already understand why Camp Cahinnio has found such a special place in so many hearts! It’s not uncommon to hear a camper or staff member who has returned to camp for several summers say that Camp Cahinnio feels like a second home. Simply seeing the staff return rate speaks loud and clear – over 75% of Cahinnio camp staff return annually to give another six weeks of their time and talents to Girl Scouts, and the average age of a Camp Cahinnio staff member is 27.

As a parent, making the decisions of whether or not to send your daughter to summer camp, for how long, and where are undoubtedly difficult. You will have many questions, and I want to assure you that the council office staff is here to help make those decisions easier by giving you honest answers. I hope your daughter will talk your ear off about her camp experiences when you pick her up next summer!

Sincerely,

Amber Jimenez
“Sponge!”