

Answers to Questions Camp Myeerah

8/14/12

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Tammy DeLong	Our troop has camped at Myeerah frequently. For our Bronze award, the girls put on Scouterfest there. They spent lots of time planning that outing and did a wonderful job. We have also attended programs put on there, and just camped with our troop. We spent time this summer there painting the picnic tables for all girl scouts to enjoy. Our troop spent days on this service project and are proud of what they have accomplished.	We love camp Myeerah. Our girls love the Tree houses and the covered wagons. My children were not campers until they began scouts. They absolutely love camping in the covered wagons. You could offer this at another camp, but Camp Myeerah is so close to us and convenient and as I recall, the girls should have this opportunity within an hour of their homes.	Yes, we have camped at Camp Libby. The girls selected that camp because of Climbing Craze that was offered there. We spent one evening there, and the girls like it, but like Myeerah better because it is closer.	Time is very important when deciding where to go. We have a big troop and sometimes it is hard to find drivers to get the girls where we need to go. Myeerah makes it close and if a parent wants to drive, but chooses not to spend the night, then that is fine they can drive home and drive back the next day. If we camp an hour and a half away, due to gas prices, this is not feasible. Please keep the interest of the girls in mind when making a decision. It should not be all about money, we cannot exclude the girls from getting all of the girl scout experience they are entitled to. They should be number one!!

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<p>Sarah Bowers My name is Sarah Bowers. I have been a Girl Scout Leader for the past 6 years. Currently my girls are going into their first Cadette year. They earned their Bronze Award last September at Camp Myeerah. Seven of my girls planned, organized, shopped for and then implemented a Service Unit weekend we call Scouterfest that entailed seven different country experiences. Our girls consider Camp Myeerah "Our Camp".</p>	<p>Yes - my troop has stayed in the tree houses in April of 2011 (cold weather camping experience including outdoor cooking skills, water purification (this was straight from the lake), night hike, etc...), the covered wagons in September of 2011 (Bronze Award Scouterfest as described above) and again in June 2012 (painting picnic tables for one of their service projects), and have the platform tents booked for September of 2012 (Scouterfest 2012 - Zanes Caverns is putting on a Native American Round Robin for us this year). We have also done day trips up to the camp for council sponsored events and have spent one day trip doing a winter hike in February 2011.</p> <p>We have done both - in addition to troop camping, we have attended Earth Day and Archery/Canoeing as day events. Earth Day - good program idea but it rained all day so we couldn't get the full effect - still had a blast. Archery/Canoeing - this is my daughter favorite girl scout experience - she has gone canoeing three times since then and plans to do so for her birthday party this year. She also now own her own bow and arrow set and practices on her own. We attended these two events because that is where the council programming was.</p>	<p>The lake - the girls learned to canoe on this property. Also they LOVE the choices of different camping experiences. Also the acreage is fantastic!!!!</p> <p>Not within an hour drive and probably will not have the space that Myeerah has.</p> <p>Location is a huge factor for us. We can't travel 1 1/2 to 2 hours every time we want to camp.</p>	<p>Yes - the troop did Climbing Craze April 2012, a day trip to the Maple Sugar Festival May 2012 and 2 girls attended resident camp July 2012 all at Camp Libbey in Defiance. Also we have stayed at Sweetbriar Lodge at Woodhaven in Lima in Feb of 2011 for a troop program (first aid and spa day).</p> <p>The girls selected that camp because that's where the climbing program, maple sugar festival and resident camp were being offered. It came down to council programming. Climbing Craze - the girls stayed in a lodge and Resident Camp - the girls stayed in platform tent but were moved into the administration building due to mosquitos. The girls enjoyed the lodge but not so much the platform tents (due to the mosquitos). They did admit the platform tents were in very nice condition. Maple Sugar Festival we did not stay but were in alot of the buildings - Camp Libbey is in excellent condition but if any of the programs listed above were offered at Myeerah, we would have picked Myeerah over Camp Libbey. Sweetbriar is a great experience. It's very close to our home (20 minutes) but it is an indoor experience. Woodhaven does not allow tent camping and does not have outdoor facilities like covered wagons, tree houses or platform tents.</p>	<p>Travel time is a huge issue to us. The reason Myeerah is our main camp is because it is only 45 minutes away. I don't think we will attend any GS camps if Myeerah is closed unless they are offering really fantastic programing that the girls find interesting. We, as all GS groups, have had alot of issues with drivers in the past. Our troop maintains around 15 - 20 girls per year and the furthur away we need to go, the less likely we can find transportation. I think we will have to look into other youth camps and state parks as an alternative. The most disappointing is our Sept yearly Service Unit event will have to find a new location and that will cause a huge break in tradition.</p>

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<p>Jackie Augustine (Member of TriMoraine Audubon’s executive committee & Assistant Professor of Biology at The Ohio State University at Lima)</p>	<p>Yes, I have camped at Myeerah for two nights in May with TriMoraine Audubon’s environmental education weekend for the past three years.</p>	<p>Myeerah holds many unique natural features THAT CANNOT BE PROVIDED AT ANOTHER CAMP. The geology is unique and includes both a deep ravine and a geosink. The habitat diversity is extraordinary – you would be hard-pressed to find old growth forest, grassland, riparian areas, wetland, and marsh in an area of comparable size anywhere in western Ohio. Given this diversity of habitats, the wildlife diversity is phenomenal – over 150 birds have been seen on Camp Myeerah property – that is approximately half of the number of birds that have ever been seen in the state (includes birds that have only been seen once in the state). Although my specialty is birds and not plants, one doesn’t have to look far to see the wonderful diversity of wildflowers and fungus in the woods. This is due to the old growth nature of the forest and attests to the high quality nature of the soil. The slopes protected the forest from most logging and left the soil intact – again, a hard feature to find in western Ohio. The property may also hold the Indiana Bat, a state-listed endangered species. Over the years, TriMoraine members have also seen several species on the state of Ohio’s ‘species of concern’ list (species that are in danger of becoming ‘threatened’ or ‘endangered’). The species include: Little Brown Bat, Bobolink, Cerulean Warbler, Great Egret, Henslow’s Sparrow, Northern Bobwhite, Sora Rail, Virginia Rail, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. For more information, see: http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Home/ExperienceWildlifeSubHomePage/Endangeredthreatenedspeciesplaceholder/resourcesmgtplannspecofconcern/tabid/6007/Default.aspx I have traveled extensively throughout western Ohio, and I have not found a similar quality of habitat and diversity of habitats on any other public lands including state parks and school preserves.</p>		<p>These two questions (3 and 4) are frustrating because they suggest that closing Myeerah is inevitable and that you want to transplant the benefits of Myeerah somewhere else. The natural features of Myeerah cannot be found anywhere else. If keeping Myeerah open is still an option, why don’t you ask how attendance/participation/use of Myeerah can be improved? Or what facilities would you like to see at Myeerah? Based on the meeting the other night, there is much interest in having a tier-1 camp in the northern portion of GSWO.</p>

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Anne Smedley	<p>All of my experiences camping at Myeerah have been with Tri-Moraine Audubon Society during their Environmental Education Weekend. I have been doing this with my family for the last 10 years. My children enjoy it as much as I do. Two of my children are girl scouts. I just completed my first year as one of my younger daughter's 01 Troop Leader (troop 20632). I am in the process of getting my camping training (already have lodge training). I am looking forward to taking my troop to Myeerah as soon as possible.</p>	<p>I have some girls who would prefer a tent camping experience over a lodge stay. I also have girls who would prefer hiking and exploring over participating in scheduled activities at places like camp Libbey. The features at Myeerah would allow me to do this with my troop in a way that I cannot accomplish at other Camps. The forests, fields, prairie remnants, ponds, and streams at Myeerah provide a wonderful amount of biology and ecology based programs. And thanks to my biology degree from Ohio Northern University, I don't have to get training in how to put one of these programs together.</p>	<p>My eldest daughter's troop, troop 20113, attempted to Camp at Libbey last year when they had about 30 girls (I was a troop helper). They couldn't get spaces reserved because everything was either booked up or there was not enough space to accomodate troop size. They managed to get a day trip for crate climbing. As we were leaving Lima, the sunny weather quickly turned to torrential downpours and our cars were hydroplaning and we could hardly see in front of us. The troop leader called every number she had for Camp Libbey and no one answered any of them. She couldn't get hold of anyone to let them know we couldn't make it due to dangerous driving conditions from the storm. We turned around and took all the girls home so they would be safe. Once the troop leader finally got hold of Camp Libbey she was told they weather was fine there and since we cancelled without calling no refund would be given. She tried to fight this, but in the end it was futile. They wouldn't even allow a transfer of the activity to another date. Given the troubles it takes to book an event at a Tier I camp and that there are limited spaces, it is easier for us to go somewhere other than a Tier I camp.</p>	<p>All of GSWO's Tier I camps are in Warren county. This gives us a travel time of an hour an a half at least. Myeerah is only 45 minutes away! We could easily leave for a Friday night to Saturday camping session if we wanted to. We could incorporate working parents into it by leaving at 6 pm and still have plenty of time to arrive for dinner and set up and a few activities before bed. Impossible to do if we were to want to go to a Tier I camp.</p> <p>In addition to your questions, I have a few more comments. I don't think more features really need to be added to Myeerah. I like the fact that it doesn't have climbing walls, archery, horseback riding, etc. Those features are nice, but not necessary at all camps. It's nice to be able to experience all spectrums of the camping experience. Camp Myeerah gives you a slower pace that you can create to match your troops abilities. There are some improvements that need to be done at Myeerah. It includes a new roof on the logde (not the troop house with the bunks). There were several leaks evident in the ceiling that have run down the beams and onto the wooden floor, which all needs refinishing. Some work also probably needs done to the tree houses, covered wagons and platform tents to make sure they are not leaking. Another fix needed is the stairs down into the ravine. The hand rail is inadequate and some of the steps are difficult to navigate. The repair of the steps would need to be done in close association with Tri-Moraine Audubon Society since they are the Grantee of the Conservation Easement that the stairs are located in to be sure the repair is done with minimanl environmental impact to the habitat.</p>

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Margaret Schuck Troop 20095 SU 202	I took my troop (Juniors) to TAC camp this year at Myeerah. We had a great time. The girls liked the platform tents. They enjoyed eating at the lodge and there was hot water at the showers. Their favorite activities were creek stumping and archery. The only comment was to do the washing up after meals differently. To have each girl wash her own service takes a lot of time - standing in line (up to 1/2 hour, if at the end of the line), which could have been used for activities - but that is a function of how the leaders scheduled the camp, not the camp itself.	<p>This was our first year at the camp. My girls enjoyed seeing deer and fauns early in the morning. We were at the platform tents, up the hill and had a great view of the meadows. Creek stumping by the lodge was good. The other creeks were dry this year. As a leader, I particularly liked the organization of the tents. We didn't have our own fire, but could have and looking around, I could see bringing the girls and camping there. However, if the goal is simply to have the girls have fun, Camp Libby has more options.</p> <p>From a leader's stand point, this camp appears to be more primitive than others (from what I heard from other leaders). If my purpose is to teach the girls outdoor or camping skills, I like that. I also liked that it wasn't crowded and you could enjoy the outdoors</p> <p>I wish the tents had cots for the leaders. As we get older, it's hard to get up and down from the ground. The girls didn't seem to mind, since the mattresses were thick. The camp directors did find 2 for 2 leaders.</p>	I have not camped at other girl scout camps. We have camped at the Boy Scout camp (Camp Berry) near Findlay.	<p>Travel is not an issue. It is about an hour to either Camp Libby or Camp Myeerah. It is a good camp to stay in if travelling to skiing near Bellefontaine in the winter.</p> <p>Note: While I understand the financial issues, I would hate to see Camp Myeerah go. That would leave Camp Libby as the closest to us and it is often difficult to get. I have attempted to get Camp Libby for TAC camp twice and both times it was filled. The other Girl Scout camps are farther away. I have checked the Camp Libby schedule several times and it seems to be more oriented to the Toledo area (understandable since it is a larger metro area). However, that leaves some of us in the "hinterlands" out of the market. I'm going to try to get to Camp Libby TAC camp again next year so I can compare the two.</p>

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Darla Smith Paulding County	Attended Earth Day April 2012 with troop. Attended Mother/Daughter DOVE Esteem event 2010? Myeerah is a distance from us and we have not utilized the facility as much as we should. My troop enjoyed Earth Day & want to do another outing here, but we have to be able to coordinate with our schedules.	I feel that the environment features of this camp are important for girls to experience. Being in Northwest Ohio and flat land the girls get to explore nature and enjoy hikes in an area of which they do not have in the region we live in. My oldest daughter earned her Camera Shots Jr. Badge exploring the ravines of Myeerah.	We have attended Camp Libbey as it is only 25 miles from home. That is a factor when choosing an outing. We have only done council events such as Maple Sugar Fest and Flower Dr. These were day only outings. My youngest daughter did camp 2 years ago, but went to Church camp last year and this year. She still writes to one of the girls she met. My daughters also attend Keepin' It Real at Libbey each Nov. for the weekend. I would be willing to send them to Myeerah if a suitable event were planned.	Travel time is a factor when planning a weekday event. I now have enough parent volunteers and fewer girls that would make it feasible to travel for an overnight/weekend event at Myeerah. By visiting the camp this past April for council events, my troop was introduced to the locations available and the parents are more open to sending their daughters to camp. I have had a problem figuring a camp opportunity for my daughter that interested her and I was able to afford. I understand the cost of running camp can be substantial and hope that the Board will be able to resolve this issue. I would hope that someone would develop a solution that would allow Girl Scouts of Western Ohio to retain Camp Myeerah and provide continued experiences for girls in the years to come.
Kris Smith Advisor for Senior Troop 20243 SUM - Findlay 202	Our troop has camped at Myeerah twice in the last two year, once in Jan. 2010 as a troop outing with another troop and again in Feb. of 2012 as a service unit CSA event.	Besides being a short commute, Myeerah is very easy to reserve due to the limited use by others. We also used Myeerah for our service unit CSA weekend while taking advantage of the Girl Scout Ski/tubing day at Mad River as Myeerah is very conveniently located near the ski resort. Should we decide to camp in conjunction with the Mad River Girl Scout day again, we would need to use other facilities in the area. The girls mentioned that they hoped the Conestoga wagons at Myeerah might be moved to a new location within our area, possibly a new campsite at Woodhaven.	In the past two years, we have also used Sweetbriar at Woodhaven for a winter lodge troop camping weekend and attend a CSA weekend at Libbey. The troop thoroughly enjoyed the many activities available at Libbey and considers it one of the best maintained camps available.	Travel time is extremely important to our troop because as high school students, their schedules are full of other extra-curricular activities and time is only available for camping in small windows of opportunity. The availability of Myeerah has been useful when the girls find at short notice that they have open weekends. It is our hope that should Myeerah be sold, council might consider allocating more funds to enhance Woodhaven's camping and programming opportunities, providing additional tent or other outdoor camping facilities. Woodhaven is very accessible to troops in our area. While Libbey is a great alternative, it fills so quickly and it would be nice for those of us in the northern Appleseed Region to have another option. Thank you for the opportunity to express our thoughts and concerns.

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Amy Ketcham Troop 20121 Leader Service Unit 213 Manager	My troop overnight camps at Camp Myeerah every year. Due to the large size of my troop (24) this camp allows for all of us to sleep in one area and offers plenty of space for our troops activites.	Camp Myeerah's Lodge and Troop house is actually larger than most and allows for my entire troop to be accomodated overnight in one area. The camp also has many trails and large grassy areas for activities. This camp is closely located to our home town and the only one in a short distance from our homes which allows for children to be picked up if necessary. This camp is also affordable and offers several camping options.	Yes, Woodhaven. Woodhaven does not allow for our entire troop to sleep in one area nor does it provide the space outdoors as does Camp Myeerah in our opinion. We always do camps as an overnight experience. Woodhaven is also a lot more money to camp than Myeerah even though we are members of the Appleseed Ridge council and are not offered any discount. My girls prefer any camp over Woodhaven.	Travel time to the camp has a lot to do with our camping choices when it comes to camp considering I have a troop with multiple ages and some girls still cannot make it through the night but like to enjoy the camp as the other girls then travel home in the evenings. To do his we must camp in a relatively close distance to our homes. How can you address challenges for travel when travel is provided through your own troop and not council. I highly doubt council will help provide travel and gas for my troops camping experience elsewhere without there being attached a hefty fee to use it. I hope I have answered your questions to help save Camp Myeerah. My girls throughly enjoy Camp Myeerah and all it has to offer. If council where to stick a little more money into some of the repairs and not to other areas that do not need it then this camp would be a great investment for future girls to come. When you modernize a camp to much like other camps you take away the real experience of the camp and what are founder really wanted these girls to get out of the camp. The evaluations that we continually have to do after each camp experience are pointless in my opinion. If you wanted to evaluate the camp then ask more questions in regards to how the troop used the camp so other troops can use there ideas as well and post them to the GSWO website. I seriously don't have a clue as to where that information goes because I have never seen it posted anywhere. Please do not take away Camp Myeerah for my girls and for all the future girls. We as scouts can work together to help repair and restore this camp back to its original glory. Thank you.

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Lynn Parsell Leader for 20 years Findlay, OH	Yes, I have camped at Myeerah in the past two years. I have troops who really don't like tent or outdoor camping and staying at the troop house at Myeerah is a good way to explore the outdoors, and still have indoor shelter. WE also usually go during the winter time. We like to go to camp spend the night, work on badges and then go snow tubing at Mad river mountian. It is just the right size of building for our troop. We ususally do this in the winter time due to the fact that the girls are really busy and cannot find other times to go. I feel that it is so important as a leader to allow them to enjoy the other activites and still be in Girl Scouts. That is why I work around them and camp in the winter time. (less busy).	If we did not have myeerah we would not go camping or do this over nighter at all. We live in Findlay and Myeerah is just close to us that it works out good. All the other camps are just to far away from us to make it a over nighter. Like I said my troop is so busy that this is about the only way we can make it work.	No over camp, but we have done day camps at riverbend in Findlay (a park here). If Myeerah is gone we will probably just use Riverbend for our time to work on badges. However they do not offer a place like the troop house to stay overnight. We will probably just do day activities.	Travel to Myeerah is close for us and very important. The girls are just so busy (which is just not our troop but all girls) that if we had to go farther away to do this we would not go. For example this years winter overnighter we had one girl who had activities the next day who could not spend the night, so she came for the day stuff and then left at night. We were close so her parents could come and pick her up. Again if we did not have the closeness of the camp she would have probably just not have gone. Again, I understand business so much and the importants of cutting back on cost. But again, I feel the business part of girl scout is so much stronger the girl part of the program(business). Thank you so much for giving leaders and girls the change to speak out before you just make the business move to sell.

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Carol Hipple	<p>No I have not. My understanding is that there have been very few program opportunities offered at Myeerah in the past 2 years per instructions from Cincinnati. I know that there used to be Earth Day celebrated there in the past and over 500 girls/adults would attend that but the venue has been changed to Woodhaven. I am no longer a troop leader. My troop disbanded in 2010 when all of the girls graduated from High School. However I am still involved with our local Service Unit with the Day Camp that our volunteers have each year and our local County Fair. Again, I am not a troop leader at this time. Also my girls are in college. HOWEVER both of my girls attended a "Dad and Me" weekend one year with their Father and Uncle. They have also stayed several times at the Covered Wagons, Tree Houses, and Troop House. They also attended a Council-sponsored (pre-merger) weekend for badge workshop. One daughter attended a 4 day/3 night day camp one year (and she was the shy girl!).</p>	<p>When my girls (both personal and troop) were in Girl Scouts they enjoyed being able to explore the different areas. I remember one troop campout where they learned about purifying water, another where they made foil pack suppers. Not having the horseback riding, swimming pool, archery, etc. was actually a benefit because the GIRLS had to do the planning of what activities that they wanted to do. If other groups were camping also, you could visit but you could also stay to yourself if desired. I do not know if this "slower pace" is available elsewhere.</p>	<p>No. I am not even aware of where the camps are really located. It is difficult to calculate the distance from where you are based upon the information on the website.</p>	<p>When my girls were in Girl Scouts, having a camp that was within easy (30-45 minutes maximum) was a deciding factor. When girls are younger, sometimes they get homesick (usually when they finally realize that they are going to be sleeping someplace strange) and parents need to be called in the middle of the night. Also, there is a lot of gear to bring with camping. At a camp that is further it is definitely harder to get enough volunteers to drive due to the cost of gasoline. Many of the families in our area have limited budgets and cannot afford to drive an hour or more to drop off stuff and then return the next day or two to pick up stuff. They also cannot afford to take a day or two off work or find childcare for their other children. No. With the new requirements in the past few years by the State of Ohio regarding the use of car seats and booster seats, it is even more difficult for leaders to transport the younger girls.</p> <p>Additional comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A benefit of this camp is that there is a Walmart (and other shopping) less than 10 miles away just in case there is that one (or two) items that you have forgotten. -I believe that many of the new leaders are not aware of what this camp and many of the others offer. -Many of the new troops do not have access to supplies that were once commonly shared among troops. -Many leaders do not have the training for camping (even lodge camping). They also do not have the parental support. -Open houses used to be routinely offered so that troops, leaders, parents could check out the camp ahead of time. -Also, camp cleanup days were held in the Spring so that volunteers experienced the camp and could feel "ownership" in it. -Woodhaven (in Lima) is listed as a Camp. However, Woodhaven is not eligible for ANY outdoor (tent) camping due to "encroachment".

Name	Have you camped at Myeerah over the past two years? Did you go troop camping or attend a program opportunity? If you have not camped at Myeerah over the past two years, is there a specific reason why? If you camped (including attending a council or service unit event) at Myeerah in the distant past, but not recently, why?	Are there unique features at Myeerah that are important to the girls in your troop? Can any of these be provided at another camp? What, if anything, could be done to offer this experience at another camp?	Have you camped at other camps over the past two years? If so, which ones, what made the girls select that camp, how long were they there, and were the girls happy with that camp experience?	How does travel time impact your decision-making about camp? Do you have ideas about how to address challenges related to travel?
Andrea Wintrow AYA Language Arts Fairborn Girl Scout Leader Troop 31280 & Troop 30240	I have camped there three times over the past two years. The first was with a Service Unit camp-out. The second was a troop event, a cookie camp-out. We chose the lodge because it had such a wonderful kitchen (though could use lighter tables). The third was to use the fabulous treehouses & camp near the Ohio Caverns.	The treehouses are definitely unique. While Whip-poor-will has some, they are different than Myeerah's. I suppose these could be recreated at another camp.	Yes. Stonybrook (TAC & Service Unit camp), Rolling Hills for the split building. They're always happy when they camp.	The other two camps that we have been to are about 15 min. closer. We would still choose Myeerah if we wanted to do treehouses again. The biggest challenge with Myeerah is the poor signage. It is really tough to spot even if you have been there before.