

Camp-In Overnight Program & Frequently Asked Questions

Camp-In is the ultimate indoor camping experience for girls and boys at COSI! Camp-In began in 1972 as a partnership between COSI and the Girl Scouts – Seal of Ohio Council (now Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Council) and welcomed its millionth participant in 2009. Over the years, it has expanded to include councils in Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky and other various groups. More than 100 science centers and zoos internationally now emulate COSI's Camp-In program at their own institutions.

Camp-In Overnight Programs are held from mid-February through early May on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. This year is engineering, Dare to Design. Visit Camp-In's all-new Dare To Design engineering zone, a freestyle creation space where you can create rockets, brush bots, marble machines and more!

What is a COSI Overnight?

COSI Camp-In is the ultimate indoor camping experience. Participants spend 19 hours immersed in all that COSI has to offer enhanced by a themed design lab, an Extreme Screen film, and much more.

How much is a COSI Overnight?

The Overnight Program costs \$44 per person with dinner; \$36 per person without dinner.

When can I register my group?

Reservations are now open.

How soon do I have to pay for the program?

The programs must be paid in full at least six weeks prior to their visit date. Fees are not refundable, but are transferable in the form of COSI bucks (dinner fee NOT refundable), which can be used that night or on a future visit. COSI bucks don't expire, and can be used for admission, in the Science2Go! store, or the Atomic Café. Please note that the \$8 dinner fee is non-refundable.

What can be expected during an overnight program?

Every Overnight includes: a souvenir patch (Camp-In participants only), dinner (optional), hands-on activities related to a specific theme, time to explore the building's exhibition areas, exclusive access to the Adventure Exhibition Area, a late night snack, sleeping space, breakfast, and a film in COSI's Extreme Screen Theater.

What is a typical Overnight Program schedule like?

- Check-in from 5:00-6:30pm. Campers will store their gear, attend a brief welcome show, and then are directed to dinner. The leaders and participants receive schedules, maps and wristbands at the welcome show.
- Dinner from 5:30-7:30pm – If Purchased
- Hands-on design lab activities scheduled in the evening (7:00-11:00)
- Snack (fresh fruit, granola bar, and drink) will be available from
 - 9:00 pm – 10:30 pm – Juniors / Cadette, Co-Ed, OFT and Boy nights
 - 8:00 pm – 9:30 pm – Brownies nights
- Dancemania from 11:00-11:45pm (10:00-10:45 for Brownie Overnights)
- Lights out at approx. 12:10am. (11:10pm for Brownie Overnights)
- Lights on at 7:00am and Breakfast at 7:30am (cereal, muffin, fruit, juice, milk)
- A scheduled show in the Extreme Screen Theater at 9:00, 10:00, or 11:00am.
- The program concludes after your Extreme Screen Film, but you are welcome to stay and explore COSI until close at 5:00pm (6:00pm on Sundays).

Is dinner included in the price of an overnight program?

Dinner is not included in the price of an overnight program, but may be added no later than 4 weeks prior to your overnight program. Dinner is \$8 per person and you can choose from Grilled Chicken Sliders, Turkey Sandwich or Vegetarian Whole Wheat Pasta. Dinner fees are non-refundable, so please plan accordingly.

What is different about a Brownie Overnight?

During Brownie Overnights, themed activities are geared for the Brownie age group, Dancemania is at 10:00 pm, and lights out is one hour earlier.

Are scouts outside of the listed eligible participants able to attend?
For example, may Brownie Girl Scouts attend a Junior Girl Scout Overnight?
No, COSI recommends that you please see the schedule for the available options for your level of scouting.

How long is an overnight?
Check in begins at 5:00 pm that evening and the overnight continues until noon the following morning. All overnights are permitted to stay that day with free admission to COSI's exhibition areas until the close of business. (Excludes special events, Adventure and certain traveling exhibition charges.) More details about the overnight schedule accompany the Pre-Visit Packet, which the group contact can download off of the COSI.org website.

Where do overnight participants sleep?
Campers sleep outside of the Exhibition Areas, typically in the hallways and open traveling exhibition galleries. Small air mattresses are permitted (3' wide max).

Is parking included in the cost of the program?
No, parking is on your own. Parking for COSI Camp-In is available in the lots adjacent to COSI. The cost for parking is \$5.00 per car, payable upon entry to the parking lot. Bus and oversized vehicle parking is available for \$10 in the gravel lot across the street from COSI. It is highly recommended that you remove ALL valuables from plain sight and lock them in your trunk or carry them in the building with you.

Where can we purchase the Camp-In T-shirt?
Camp-In themed T-shirts can be purchased during Camp-In at Science2Go!, or you can order them ahead of time from the Science2Go! store.

How will my group know what to pack for the overnight event?
The leader or parent who registers the group can download the Pre-Visit and Post-Visit packet off of the COSI.org website. The packet includes directions to COSI, sample schedules, as well as a list of what to pack.

What is COSI's required ratio of chaperones to campers at overnight events?

There is no minimum number of participants to adult chaperones to schedule an overnight stay at COSI. However, COSI does require at least one adult for every seven campers, but groups are encouraged to follow their specific group's recommendations for adult chaperone ratios.

Can siblings or friends attend overnights or day programs?

COSI's Camp-In is specially designed for children in grades 1-8 to explore science in a safe, fun environment. Siblings and friends outside the Camp-In age range (younger than first grade) cannot be accommodated at COSI Camp-In and are not permitted. Same-sex siblings and friends within the Camp-In age range (or older) are welcome to attend as paid members of your group. Please note that girls cannot be accommodated on "boys-only" nights. Boys cannot be accommodated on "girls-only" nights. Guests arriving with children outside the Camp-In age range may be asked to leave COSI without refund. Please call 614.228.2674 with any questions. Thank you for helping make COSI's Camp-In a memorable experience for all our guests!

Are consent and release forms required for all overnight participants including adult chaperones?

COSI doesn't require medical forms or permission slips for overnight participants. Simply follow the guidelines within your specific group.

Where do I go for more information?

You can send an email to explorationprograms@cosi.org or call COSI at 614-228-2674.