



Program Overview

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

Camp-In is held from late January through May on Friday and Saturday nights. Each year it presents a different themed experience on a science topic. In 2010, Camp-In will be going Gross with *GROSSOLOGY: The (Impolite) Science of the Human Body*.

Frequently Asked Questions:

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 themed workshops, an Extreme Screen film, and much more.

How much is a COSI Overnight?

\$40 per person with dinner; \$32 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, which can be used that night or at a future date. 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 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 and maps at the welcome show.



- Dinner from 5:30-7:30pm (pizza, carrots, cookies, granola bar, juice)
- Hands-on workshop activities scheduled either in the evening (7:00-10:45) or morning (9:00-11:00)
- Snack (chips, granola bar and drink) will be available from 9:30 – 11:30pm
- Dancemania from 11:00-11:45pm (10:00-10:45 for Brownie Overnights)
- Lights out at approx. 12:15am. (11:15pm 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 ends at 12:00pm, but you are welcome to stay and explore COSI until close at 5:00pm. (6:00pm on Sundays)

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 approximately 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?

Yes. However, COSI does not recommend such an action because the activities and schedule are geared for the age group and level of scouting that is listed for each overnight. 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 and certain traveling exhibition charges.) More details about the overnight schedule accompany the Pre-Visit Packet, which the group contact will receive approximately six weeks prior to their scheduled overnight.

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.**

Is dinner included in the price of an overnight?

Dinner is not included in the price of an overnight, but may be added no later than 4 weeks prior to your overnight. Dinner is \$8 per person and includes pizza, carrots, cookies, a granola bar, and a drink. Dinner fees are non-refundable, so please plan accordingly. At no additional charge, a late-night snack of chips, granola bars, and drink is provided during the evening activities and in the morning a breakfast of cereal, juice, muffins, and fruit.



Is parking included in the cost of the program?

No. Parking is \$5.00 cash upon entry. COSI does not own nor operate the parking lots.

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. A t-shirt pre-order form will be available online starting in November, 2009.

How will my group know what to pack for the overnight event?

The leader or parent who registers the group will receive a Pre-Visit Packet approximately six weeks prior to your scheduled overnight. 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?

No siblings or additional family members will be allowed to attend either overnights or day programs. If extra family members want to come to COSI during our regular business hours they are welcome to pay general admission to see the normal exhibit areas, but they may not tag along with the scouts or receive workshop materials, food, or Extreme Screen shows. They also must leave the building at closing time like general public. If they wish to return the following day they must do so during regular general public hours of operation and they must purchase admission again.

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 email to explorationprograms@mail.cosi.org or call the Camp-In hotline at 614-228-2674.