

Volunteer COVID 19 In Person Meeting and Activities

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This guidance is provided as of the Edition Date above. Girl Scouts of West Central Florida may modify this guidance, from time to time as circumstances change.

Each troop/family should weigh their participation based on their own health concerns.

As with any social activity, participation in Girl Scouts could present the risk of contracting COVID-19. While Girl Scouts of West Central Florida takes every safety and preventative precaution, Girl Scouts of West Central Florida can in no way warrant that COVID-19 infection will not occur through participation in Girl Scout activities.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to change as infection rates rise and fall in different areas. There may be regional differences or developments since this guidance was published. Continue to follow local and [national](#) directives. Discuss plans with families.

All Girl Scout members who wish to participate in Girl Scout activities must complete and submit a Waiver, and keep accurate attendance records for all meetings and activities.

Troop Meeting Space. Virtual meetings are the safest way to conduct Girl Scout meetings. However, if the troop members decide to meet in person, utilize all social distancing practices and follow all preventative guidance, such as face masks.

For meetings held at public facilities, contact the facility ahead of time and ask:

- Is the space cleaned, and touch surfaces (i.e., tabletops, light switches, chairs, etc.) sanitized, at least daily?
- Who else uses the space (how often, what size is the group)? Is the space cleaned between groups?
- What type of faucets / soap dispensers are available in the restroom (sensory or manual)?

Then, consider whether you can supplement any practices that are less ideal. For example, if you will arrive after another user group, plan to bring sanitizing wipes to get the space ready for your troop. Another example: if faucets are manual, take some time to show girls how to shut them off with a paper towel. Use paper towels for doorknobs whenever possible.

Meetings may not be held in fitness centers or gyms, unless there is a separate meeting room.

Troop Meetings at a Girl Scouts of West Central Florida camp property. Troop meeting space at GSWCF camp properties is available by reservation. Note that the capacity of each troop meeting space varies depending on the size of the facility. Any requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis based on number of attendees (note that we may not be able to accommodate any groups larger than 20 at this time.) Troop leaders are required to sanitize all surfaces prior to allowing girls to enter the meeting space and again after all girls have left. This should include any areas that may be used beyond the reserved meeting space (bathrooms, etc.)

Troop Meetings in the residential setting with Residential Meeting Agreement form in place. Meetings in residences should be conducted outdoors and maintaining social distancing and using masks to reduce the risk of exposure to other family members. Refer to Safety Activity Checkpoints for further guidance and complete the [Residential Troop Meeting](#) form.

Troop Meeting Size. Troops and groups of individuals can meet in groups up to 50 participants provided they practice social distancing by maintaining a 6-foot distance from anyone they don't live with, and wear a mask indoors or when social distancing is difficult. All troops should monitor and, refer to the [GSWCF Blog](#) for the most up to date status. Restrictions vary greatly from state to state, county to county, and even from town to town--and frequently change.

Each volunteer hosting meetings at a residence must have a **Residential Troop Meeting Agreement** on file and follow all safety ratios and requirements for leading a troop within Safety Activity Checkpoints.

It is further recommended that all Troop Helpers who will be hosting troop meetings or leading activities complete the "Let's Be Girl-Led" webinar to equip them for working with the troop. Meeting in a residence is considered the primary meeting location and does not require a first aid/CPR trained adult. This is true even if meeting in more than one residence to accommodate group size. When meeting in public spaces such as park and libraries, if not listed officially as the troop meeting location it would be not considered the troops primary meeting location and would fall within the description for troop field trips requiring one first/aid CPR certified adult.

Transportation. The safest way to transport girls to and from meetings is for individual guardians to drop off and pick up their own girls from meetings, avoiding carpooling or public transportation in order to maintain social distancing.

However, if the troop decides to carpool here are some recommended guidelines:

- Girls and adults should wear masks when inside of a motor vehicle
- Keep car window opened, at least slightly, to circulate fresh air.
- Routinely disinfect the car handles, seats and any touchable surfaces
- Wash hands before and after the trip
- Consider the personal situation of your girls:
 - Do they live with an immune compromised person that they can put at risk? If so, perhaps make other accommodations for her with her parents.
 - Have the families been isolating, and free from contagion? If so, the troop may essentially be a safe bubble.

Remember, sustained contact within less than six (6) feet for longer than ten (10) minutes within an enclosed area creates high risk for virus transmission, so be very careful with carpool decisions.

Virtual meetings. Virtual meetings remain the safest way to conduct Girl Scout activities. Even if you begin meeting in person, you should hold virtual troop meetings at least 20% of the time to keep tech skills and virtual meeting habits fresh. Use the Safety Activity Checkpoints for Virtual Meetings, to guide your meeting plans: [Virtual Troop Meetings](#).

Other helpful resources can be found here: [GSUSA and GS @Home](#)
<https://www.girlscouts.org/en/girl-scouts-at-home.html> and <https://www.gswcf.org/en/our-council/web-to-case.html>

Day trips and activities. In conjunction with Safety Activity Checkpoints, follow the same guidance as Troop Meetings and Hygiene and COVID-19 Risk Mitigation guidance in this document. Call ahead to the facility or vendor to confirm that they are following CDC and state health department guidelines. If activity or sporting equipment is being provided, ask the provider if they wipe down equipment in between uses, similar to equipment at the gym. Make whatever appropriate accommodations that are necessary. For example, bring extra sanitizer if none will be provided for public use at the activity location.

Travel and overnight stays. Overnight trips are not permitted until after the home state is successfully past Phase 3 of its re-opening process. The timeframes will vary from state to state and even from county to county in some cases. As always, contact your council for prior approval before planning any overnight stays and follow guidance in Safety Activity Checkpoints.

Hygiene and COVID-19 Risk Mitigation. Follow the [resources developed by credible public health sources such as CDC](#) or your local public health department. Share these with girls and volunteers and ensure that they are practiced during meetings and activities. Place signs in the meeting or activity space to remind girls and volunteers to engage in [everyday preventive actions](#) to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Signs should include:

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Cough and sneeze into a tissue, throw the tissue in the trash, and wash or sanitize your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Wash hands if you do touch.
- Volunteers, girls and parents should be reminded to make sure temperatures are taken prior to group interaction to confirm the individual is not running a fever and temperature is a normal 98.6 degrees. Members with fever or temperature higher than 98.6 should skip the in-person gathering until their temperature is normal.

Personal contact. Hugs, handshakes, “high-fives,” and even activities like the friendship circle or squeeze can transmit COVID-19 from person to person. Refrain from these gestures for the time being. Create a safe way for girls and volunteers to greet and end meetings instead.

First Aid Supplies. Troop first aid supplies should include COVID-19 prevention items including hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol), tissues, disposable facemasks, and disinfectants. Trash baskets or bags should be supplied for meeting and activity spaces, if not already available. Make sure that the trash baskets (or bags) are easily accessible for girls. Disposable or no-contact thermometers may be added to supplies if available and not cost-prohibitive, however, parents should be checking temperatures and allowing their girl(s) to join group activities only when temperatures are normal.

First Aid / CPR Training. Keep skills up-to-date for any emergency. Internet first aid / CPR training that is offered online may be necessary due to COVID-19 restrictions. Whenever in person training is safely authorized in your jurisdiction, opt for in-person training for in-person opportunities to practice and receive feedback on life saving technique. If taking a course not offered by one of the organizations listed in the previous paragraph, or taking any course that has online components, get approval from your support team or council prior to enrolling in the course to ensure you are using a council approved vendor and that an online training is acceptable.

Disinfectants and Disinfecting. [Routinely clean and disinfect surfaces](#) and objects that are frequently touched (i.e., table tops, markers, scissors, etc.). Use a household cleaner, or see the [EPA's list of effective cleaners](#) approved for use against COVID-19. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).

Household bleach is effective against COVID-19 for up to 24 hours when properly diluted. Check that the bleach is not expired and determine if it can be used on a given surface. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser.

To prepare a bleach solution, mix:

- 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water or
- 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water

See the [CDC's website](#) for more on cleaning and disinfecting community facilities.

Face Coverings. Using [cloth face coverings](#) as feasible. Wearing face coverings (masks) not only to protect you but to protect others. Face coverings are a civic responsibility and a sign of caring for the community. Girls can bring their own face coverings. Have disposable masks on hand for those who need them. Volunteers can teach girls [how to handle their face coverings](#) so that the coverings are effective.

Note that some girls or volunteers may not be able to wear masks, due to medical conditions such as asthma. Face coverings are most essential in times when social distancing is difficult. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on:

- Children younger than 2 years old
- Anyone who has trouble breathing
- Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance

Reporting and communicating a positive COVID 19 results. In the event of a COVID-19 positive test result, contact the parents or troop members while maintaining privacy of the individual. The troop leader will notify parents and others about a positive test result and that the **tester's identity is confidential**. Remember that girl and volunteer health information is private and strictly confidential and should be only shared on a need to know basis with a council staff member.

- Confirming and tracing the positive tester,
- Contacting the parents of anyone who may have been exposed (or other volunteers),
- Notifying a facility or homeowner where a troop has met