

When can troops start meeting in-person? Do we have to wait for Phase 3? What are the guidelines?

Virtual meetings remain the recommended way to hold any Girl Scout meetings to ensure the safety of girls and families; however, starting August 4 you can meet in-person by following our Volunteer [guidelines for In-Person Meetings and Activities](#) during COVID-19 (including 10 people limits, maintaining social distancing, wearing masks, etc.) Outdoor meetings are preferred over indoor meetings because it is easier to maintain proper social distancing and offers better ventilation.

Please visit the “[Forms and Documents](#)” page on GSWCF.org or your [MyGS account](#) to access the following materials:

[COVID-19 In-Person Meeting Guidelines](#)

[Health Form & COVID-19 Waiver](#)

[Acknowledgement of GSWCF Covid-19 Guidelines and Residential Meeting Request](#)

For clarification, you can begin meeting in-person if you follow the COVID-19 guidelines we put in place and members of your troop are in agreement. Be sure to complete the COVID-19 waiver for each member of the troop prior to meeting in-person. We are not requiring that troops wait until we successfully reach Phase 3 as long as you follow the guidelines. Phase 3 is defined by the CDC as a downward trajectory (or near-zero incidence) of documented cases for at least fourteen days after entering Phase 2.

Visit the state of [Florida COVID-19 recovery plan](#) for more details on the statewide plan and phases. Council-specific [COVID-19 Council News and Updates](#) can be found on the GSWCF blog.

When can we resume troop meeting on camp properties?

We plan to allow meetings on camp properties after September 4. As in the past, troop leaders will need to reserve the meeting space ahead of time.

Does everyone need to drive themselves to meetings? Is carpooling allowed for troop day trips?

Parents are required to drop-off and pick-up their own girls from meetings and for all troop activities, including anywhere outdoors, until further notice. There should be no carpooling or ride-sharing among non-family members. It is the best way to avoid contact since social distancing cannot be maintained while you are in the same vehicle. Public transportation should be avoided, where possible, to maintain social distancing.

When will we be able to sign up troops for day camp activities?

The Outdoor Program Team hopes to have troop-led day camp activity reservations opening in November. We will have additional updates on the status of this in late-September.

Why are encampments cancelled through the membership year?

The decision to cancel all encampments is based on several factors. We understand that service units need time to plan and prepare for a successful encampment, which often includes purchasing supplies in advance. Since it is unknown when we will be able to once again hold large group meetings, this places a lot of potential financial risk and lost time planning for an event that could ultimately end up cancelled. This is in addition to the stress of uncertainty and the disappointment on the girls/families who put so much effort into an event that is likely to be cancelled. Finally, it would be hard to make a plan that is equitable in the second half of the year for those service units who have to cancel in the fall without any additional weekends available to them in the spring. Once we can safely reopen reservations at our camp properties for groups larger than 10, the service units who had made reservations for the 2020-2021 membership year will have first opportunity to reserve facilities on their previously scheduled encampment date for day, family, or troop camping reservations for their service unit. We will honor the current encampment pricing for the next reservation cycle for those who already had reservations in place. Additionally, any discounts earned from the SU CEO Award of Excellence will also be carried forward.

Will reservations already made for example the obstacle courses be refunded? Or are those activities still available for groups of 10?

All monies collected as a deposit for encampments including add-on deposits for the Challenge Course and Equestrian program events will be refunded. Challenge Course and Equestrian programs are suspended for the time being, however, we are working through a phased approach to slowly and safely return to normal offerings at the camp properties starting with troop meetings in September, followed by adult trainings in October, and hopefully, troop day use reservations in November. Offerings for the Challenge Course and Equestrian program will be evaluated once we have successfully implemented the previous steps.

Is there any possibility of a discounted membership for a virtual only membership?

Membership dues go directly to Girl Scouts of the USA to pay for the national membership registration. There is currently no discount offered for virtual-only membership. Every dollar of membership dues is sent to Girl Scouts of the USA to cover the cost of fundamental services supporting the Girl Scout Movement. This includes, but is not limited to, accident insurance for

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members participating in approved Girl Scout activities, program development, research, resources, training, technology, services to councils, and protection of the Girl Scout brand. Membership dues also help fund the implementation of new technologies to improve the Girl Scout experience for girls, volunteers, and parents.

Is the Zoom account being offered per SU or per troop?

GSWCF is providing Zoom accounts for each service unit, but not for individual troops. Discounts for troop Zoom accounts will be available. We hope to have finalized information to share with service units by late-August.

Is the library/resource center in the Girl Scout Leadership Center open for borrowing books?

Yes, troop leaders can access the resource center by appointment. You can email troopsupport@gswcf.org or customerconnections@gswcf.org.

What is the date for Fall Product Program Manager Training? Is the August 29 for service unit product training in-person?

Service Unit Fall Product Program Manager training will kick off on August 29 virtually via the Zoom platform. Troop Fall Product Program Manager training will be online via the gsLearn platform beginning September 1.

Will the product program volunteer committee meet in person?

No. This will be conducted virtually at this time. More information about meeting date and how to apply to be part of the Product Program Advisory Committee will be updated on GSWCF.org soon.

Will the trainings for the Fall Product Program be live and host a chat room?

The service unit Fall Product Program training will be virtual via Zoom. Esther Rivera will be sending a registration link via email the week of August 10 to Service Unit Managers and Service Unit Fall Product Program Managers.

Are we planning to do Cookie Booths this year?

We are working with Little Brownie Bakers and following the COVID -19 Guidelines to determine how to handle Cookie Booths. Look for more information in the fall.

Will there be a way for older girls to assist with the Product Programs at Virtual GS fest?

We are still working on what role the Product Programs will have during this year's Virtual GS Fest weekend (Sept. 18-20). If we determine there is a way for older girls to assist, we will send messaging out via the eNewsletter or through other communication channels.

For more information about our Virtual GS Fest weekend, please visit gswcf.org/gsfest or contact Denise Pare, Special Events Manager: dpare@gswcf.org

When will the Camp Wai Lani and Camp Dorothy Thomas Saturday Shops reopen? Will they still offer store pickup?

At this time, the Saturday Shops at Camps Dorothy Thomas and Camp Wai Lani are remaining closed but we are looking at beginning a "pick-up only" service at those locations by appointment beginning September 12. This will most likely only be offered on the 2nd Saturday of the month. If we see the demand is high and interest is there, we will consider adding an additional Saturday. Look for more info on this in our eNewsletters or via social media.

When do plan to start in-person CEO Volunteer Round Table meetings?

The roundtable will resume meetings after the member selection process is complete in October. The meetings will be held virtually until further notice. More info to come after the selection process is complete.

Are there any in-person alumnae meetings planned since they are much smaller groups?

At this time, we do not have any alumnae activities on the calendar. Now that the Fund Development team is once again fully staffed, the events and activities will be reevaluated and planned in accordance with current guidelines for in-person meetings.

What is the CEO patch and how can a girl earn it? Is this the same patch a girl gets for being part of the CEO Girl Advisory Board (GAB)?

This is Mary Pat's unique CEO patch that she gives to girls who display exemplary demonstration of the Girl Scout Law. Yes, serving on the GAB is one way to earn the patch.