

Q: Where can COVID-19 Guidelines and the COVID-19 pre-screen/contact tracing form be found?

A: These documents can be found under the COVID-19 Information page on our website at: <https://www.gscnc.org/en/council/about-us/covid-19-information.html>. These documents can also be found on gsLearn and select Rallies on Rallyhood (Council-Wide SU Teams, Daisy, Brownie & Junior Events, Teen Program & Earned Awards) under the files tab.

Q: Which guidance should we follow if our local or state guidance is different than Girl Scouts Nation's Capital COVID guidelines?

A: If local or state government guidelines are more restrictive than what is outlined in our Council guidelines, follow the government's guidelines.

In-Person Gatherings

Q: Council's COVID guidance states that activity groups should be "no more than 25 people", how does this work for events where there are more than 25 members in attendance?

A: For groups larger than 25 members (combination of girls and adults), separate members into activity groups of no more than 25 to limit any exposure that may occur. Event organizers should record these group.

Q: Will council staff continue offering virtual programming for families that are not comfortable with in-person gatherings?

A: Yes. Virtual programming is still offered by both GSCNC and GSUSA!

Q: Is there a virtual platform available for troops to use to host their meetings?

A: All troops will have access to a virtual platform through Zoom. The cost per platform is \$36 annually. New troops will receive their first year free and financial assistance will be available for troops in need- thanks to generous donations!

Troop Travel

Q: Our troop is hoping to travel. Does the council have any guidance/restrictions on where we can go?

A: Yes, troops may plan travel in the USA for the spring and summer of 2021. However, the council (and service unit managers) will not approve international travel and cruises for the spring and summer of 2021. Rates of infection, quarantining before and after trip, and requirements for COVID-19 testing and vaccines vary by state and venues. Troops are expected to research and plan to meet all safety requirements.

Q: During travel, can girls share rooms?

A: Per the October update to Council COVID guidelines, individuals from separate households may not share indoor sleeping quarters; family members can share rooms. During winter months, it is unreasonable to keep windows open for sufficient ventilation; because of this and the Delta variant, there is a temporary hold on sharing indoor sleeping space. Council will re-evaluate in Mid-January.

COVID-19 Safety Requirements

Q: Do girls and adults need to wear face masks at Girl Scout events or meetings?

A: Yes, all girls and adults are required to wear face masks with two or more layers of breathable fabric if attending or participating in any Girl Scout activity. There two exceptions: if the troop is meeting outdoors and girls are able to maintain social distancing (6ft) or if there is a medical exemption and a doctor's note.

Q: Are neck gaiters an acceptable alternative to face masks?

A: Yes, gaiters may be used if they have two layers of breathable fabric and cover the nose and mouth.

Q: Are there travel restrictions set in place by Girl Scouts Nation's Capital?

A: Yes, but only if unvaccinated. An individual must refrain from participation if they have traveled outside DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, or WV via public transportation (planes/trains) or had extensive interaction (large gatherings) with individuals from outside the household. A 10-day quarantine can be replaced by a 7-day quarantine in conjunction with a negative COVID test taken 72 hours after your return. Individuals do not need to quarantine if travel was done in household vehicle and there is limited interaction with people from outside the household.

Q: If a family member has traveled outside of Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia (ex: for work), is the participant still allowed to attend in-person gatherings?

A: Yes, the participant is still allowed to attend since they are not the individual traveling. If a family member regularly travels for work and there has been no resulting infection at home or at work, the participant is considered to be a low risk for transmission and may attend in-person gatherings.

Q: Is the pre-screen document required for every in-person activity (ex: every troop meeting) as opposed to the Girl Scout permission form which can be filled out once and then used for the year?

A: Yes. Pre-screen documents are required for each individual activity. If a girl or adult does not provide a form, they will be unable to attend or participate in the respective meeting, activity, or event. The pre-screen is to be completed at most 24 hours in advance. Troops or SUs can adapt the form to a virtual format (ex: Google Docs) to simplify collection and storage of these forms.

Q: For health pre-screen forms, do electronic signatures count as an original signature?

A: Yes. Electronic signatures count as an original signature for digital forms. Digital forms should be emailed or otherwise submitted the day of the activity.

Q: Can a troop created Google form be used as a replacement for the original health pre-screen form?

A: Yes, troops can create a Google form to collect responses; all statements from the health pre-screen form must be included.

Q: How long will the pre-screen health form need to be kept?

A: All pre-screen health forms must be kept for three (3) months.

Q: What if families do not want to complete the required COVID pre-screen forms?

A: If families do not complete the pre-screen form, they will NOT be able to attend the respective in-person event, meeting, etc. Virtual programming is the best option for them.

Q: If all parents and families give permission to forgo wearing masks or gloves, are they still required?

A: All requirements must be followed at Girl Scout in-person gatherings.

Q: If a health care provider works with COVID-19 patients, but use PPE responsibly and family members have shown no symptoms or been infected, can the family participate in in-person gatherings?

A: Yes, a health care provider who works with COVID-19 can participate in-person if proper PPE usage is practiced and family members have no symptoms or have not been infected.

Q: When can I return to in-person Girl Scout activities if I tested positive for COVID?

A: If you have symptoms, you can return if at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, 24 hours have passed with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, AND other symptoms are improving. If you were asymptomatic, you may return to in-person activities 10 days after the first positive COVID test.

Q: If there was confirmed exposure to COVID, but tested negative, can I return to in-person activities?

A: Unvaccinated members may return to in-person activities after completing a 7-day quarantine after receiving a negative test result. Testing must occur on day 5 after exposure to ensure testing accuracy.

Q: Is a COVID vaccine required for Girl Scouts?

A: No, volunteers and girls are not required to be vaccinated to attend in-person Girl Scout gatherings.

Girl and Adult Recruitment

Q: Can meetings be held at Girl Scout camps?

A: Yes, troop meetings can be held at camp. Lodges are available only for day use. Glen shelters, platform tents, and hammock units are available for troop camping. Troop meetings can be held during overnights at camps on weekends.

Q: Will Girl Scout offices be available for troops to meet?

A: Offices are not available for troop meetings at this time.

Q: Can troops meet in private homes?

A: Yes, troops can meet in homes. Site Safety checklists should be reviewed and followed. Larger troops may not be able to easily utilize this option- they may need to break into patrols and meet in different homes. Please note that masks and social distancing must be followed whenever meeting indoors.

Q: If camps and homes are not options and schools are unavailable, what are the options for meetings space?

A: Three ideas that have been shared are grocery store meeting rooms (Walmart, Safeway, Wegmans, etc. may have community rooms), houses of worship fellowship halls (members of congregations will have best success in getting space), and outdoor parks and picnic shelters.

Volunteer Training

Q: How are in-person trainings being conducted?

A: All in-person training classes do not surpass activity group capacity of 25 people and participants are required to wear face coverings and social distance. There are also live, interactive virtual trainings that will be offered.

Outdoor Program and Camp Properties

Q: If you have a camping reservation at one of the Council properties and the schedule changes, will there be a full refund?

A: Yes. If we need to cancel your reservation, there will be a full refund.

Q: When will the lodges be open for troop camping reservations?

A: Currently we are monitoring CDC guidelines for indoor facilities; lodges will remain closed through January 2022. Camping in an outdoor setting (glen shelters or tents) provides better ventilation and poses less risk.

Q: How do disinfecting guidelines impact high adventure such as target sports?

A: The Council reopened archery, tomahawks, slingshots, canoe, and kayak program areas at our camps. There are new enhanced safety guidelines that must be reviewed and adhered to. Challenge courses are open.

Q: Is tent camping allowed?

A: Yes, tent camping is allowed. Keep participants to a 50% of the maximum capacity at the most. Campers should also alternate their sleeping orientation so that girls are head to toe with their tent-mate.

Equipment Center

Q: Will we be allowed to rent program kits?

A: Yes, program kits are available! When requesting, you can indicate how long you want to have the kit. Staff will also be conducting post cleaning before another troop receives it.

Q: Are there resources, such as canopies, available for troops to use for outdoor meetings?

A: Yes, troops can rent EZ Up Canopies through the equipment center. Canopies must be disinfected and returned between uses.

Product Program

Q: Will shipping charges be reduced for Girl Scout cookie online orders?

A: Unfortunately, we do not control the cost for shipping.

Liability/Insurance

Q: Who holds the liability if a Girl Scout becomes sick after attending a meeting?

A: Girl Scout liability insurance does not cover COVID-19 or any other virus. This exclusion is common throughout the insurance industry. This means that the Council would be responsible for absorbing all costs for the Council and volunteers in the event of a lawsuit. The Council understands and has made the decision to accept this risk.

Girl Scout liability insurance does protect volunteers in their roles. Volunteer Essentials and COVID-19 Response Guidelines are designed to protect members' safety and to minimize risk. The Council is in the strongest position when volunteers follow the prescribed guidelines. If a guideline is not followed, it may jeopardize safety and weakens the Council's position in the event of a lawsuit. It does not, however, eliminate our liability coverage for a volunteer. This assumes that the volunteer has not been grossly negligent in the performance of their role.

Q: How does Girl Scout medical insurance impact an individual who may be infected with COVID during a meeting?

A: Girl Scout secondary medical insurance does cover medical costs once member's primary insurance has been exhausted which includes COVID-19.