

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: 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 continue to plan domestic travel and service units will be approving international travel for Spring/Summer 2022. It is the responsibility of troops and families to recognize and plan for COVID restrictions and mitigation measures. Troops may not go on cruises due to increased chances of catching COVID.

COVID-19 Safety Requirements

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

A: No, masking is optional at all Girl Scout events if there are no county or state mask mandates in place. Leaders and event organizers may not require masks as a condition of attendance at Girl Scout gatherings.

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 (i.e. quarantine after individual travel)?

A: No, we no longer have any travel restrictions. Members are to follow local or state guidance.

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: No, pre-screen forms are not required for routine, individual troop meetings. A pre-screen form is required when multiple troops gather or if an individual attends a larger SU/Association event. 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.

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 or other virtual format 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 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 after completing five days of quarantine as stipulated by CDC.

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

A: Individuals who are not vaccinated or who are not up-to-date on their COVID vaccinations must complete 5 days of quarantine per CDC guidance. If the individual is up-to-date on their COVID vaccinations (including boosted if eligible) then there is no need to quarantine, but do monitor for symptoms.

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. Glen shelters, platform tents, and hammock units are available for troop camping. Troop meetings can be held during overnights at camps on weekends. Lodges will be available for overnight use beginning March 11th.

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. Social distancing is recommended.

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: 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: 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.