



COVID-19 Guidance FAQ—March 25, 2022

Q: **Are we required to wear masks?**

A: Masks are optional for individuals except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, and local business. All individuals should be respectful and supportive of those who choose to wear a mask. If masks are preferred, refer to CDC guidelines for proper wearing, but masks should not be worn when wet, swimming, exercising, or sleeping.

Q: **Is there a limit to the number of participants for troop meetings, activities and travel?**

A: We do not currently have a group size limitation. Instead, it is recommended that groups aim for 3-6 feet social distancing when possible.

Q: **Are we able to travel overnight with our troop?**

A: If your troop is in agreement to travel, and understands the inherent risks, troop camping, travel, and overnight stays are permitted. Take the readiness of your girls and families into account as you plan travel.

All troops should monitor the CDC and local restrictions for gatherings, events, and travel. Restrictions can vary greatly and frequently change. If the area in which your activity will take place is more restrictive, you must follow the local requirements.

Q: **Are their special considerations for lodging?**

A: All girls and adults should sleep toe-to-toe or head-to-toe due to the layout of the space. Aim to allow at least 3 feet between the heads of individuals while sleeping. Tent and/or cabin flaps should be open or partially open whenever possible for increased ventilation.

Q: **Is there a waiver for parents/caregivers to sign?**

A: We have updated our current [Parent/Caregiver Consent Form](#) and we ask that you have one for each girl completed before hosting any in-person activities or troop meetings. This document will ask families to acknowledge the risk of meeting in person as well as basic health and safety standards, such as hand washing, checking their girl for symptoms, etc. Families unwilling to complete the waiver in its entirety may not attend in-person activity.

Q: **What do I need to turn in for my troop to travel?**

A: Prior approval is required for travel and overnight activities that take place away from the troop's designated meeting place, including travel to council properties. Submit the [Day Trip and Activity Troop Travel Form](#) for all single day (no overnight) activities away from the designated meeting place at least two weeks in advance. If you are attending a service unit hosted event, troops do not need to submit this form. The event host will collect a roster and submit one [Service Unit Event Notification Form](#) on behalf of all troops. Submit the [Overnight Troop Travel Form](#) for any trips that include at least one night of lodging at least two weeks in advance for in state travel and at least two months in advance for any travel out of state. All girls and adults must have a current [Parent/Caregiver Consent Form](#) completed and signed by a caregiver. These forms must be on hand with the troop volunteer for all participants, prior to submitting the travel form, and be available upon request by council.

Q: **Are volunteers required to be vaccinated for Girl Scout activity?**

A: Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) strongly encourages individuals to receive the vaccine when able, but does not require vaccination for volunteers or members at this time.

Q: Can council staff members inquire about the vaccination status of volunteers?

A: Deciding to receive a vaccine is a personal decision and GSGCF encourages our staff and members to respect the privacy of fellow members and their families.

Q: Can parents/caregivers ask about the vaccination status of volunteers?

A: While parents/caregivers may certainly ask, volunteers are under no obligation to disclose their personal vaccination status. Also, under no circumstances should a volunteer discuss the personal healthcare decisions of another volunteer or member with anyone.

Q: What happens if someone in my troop tests positive for COVID-19?

A: In the event of a positive COVID-19 test result, the troop leader/co-leader should submit the [COVID-19 Exposure Reporting Form](#) with the roster of all girls and volunteers involved in the activity. A council staff member will send an email to the parent/caregiver of any girl who may have been exposed, to volunteers, and to the facility (if applicable), maintaining the confidentiality of the individual(s). Girl and volunteer health information is private and strictly confidential. Members who have had close physical contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 should follow CDC guidelines based on their individual vaccination status and refrain accordingly from all in-person Girl Scout activity.

Q: Some of the families in my troop aren't comfortable with face-to-face meetings or overnight travel yet. How do we include these girls?

A: Every family should judge their level of comfort, and as an inclusive organization, we want to provide a pathway of participation that will suit all of our families. Include girls virtually, post plans in your Volunteer Toolkit for families to log in and view, and share other participation pathways for interested families, such as the Juliette program. Girls can participate independently as a Juliette until ready to rejoin the troop in person. Travel poses a higher risk than daytime troop activity. Be sure all members of the troop have a voice in the discussion to resume overnight activity.

Q: Our families are not concerned with the virus. Do we need to abide by this guidance if they all agree?

A: Yes. The standards laid out on our website are now GSGCF policies and are based on the most current best practices of GSUSA and the CDC. All volunteers must review and complete an updated [Volunteer Position Agreement](#).

Q: If I plan a trip is there a chance you will cancel travel again?

A: We hope that will not be the case, but if necessary in response to national, state, and local health and safety protocols, as well as with guidelines issued by GSUSA, we reserve the right to update our guidance as needed. It is best to review travel policies with your vendors before purchasing tickets or making reservations to evaluate the cancellation policy. GSGCF will not be responsible for any monies lost due to cancellations, as they are out of our control. Review insurance policies to see if trip interruption coverage due to pandemic related causes is covered or excluded.

If you have additional questions, please contact customercare@gsgcf.org.