



In-Person Meetings, Activities, and Travel FAQ-April 1, 2021

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, groups should be limited to the amount of physical space required for appropriate social distancing for meals/snacks and sleeping, which is 6 feet.

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. No international travel is allowed at this time. Take the readiness of your girls and families into account as you plan future travel.

Q: Will the council properties be available to use for overnight activity?

A: Yes. Our council properties (Camp Honi Hanta, Camp Caloosa, and the Gulfcoast Event and Conference Center) are open to Girl Scouts to make overnight property reservations. Reservation requests will begin on April 1, 2021 for activities taking place on or after April 16, 2021. Reservation requests will be first come, first served. Detailed information regarding capacity for all council sleeping quarters is available upon request. Please contact customercare@gsgcf.org.

Q: Are their special considerations for lodging?

A: All girls and adults should sleep toe-to-toe rather than head-to-head. If necessary due to the layout of the space, individuals may also sleep head-to-toe. All lodging areas should be utilized at 50% capacity. Tent and/or cabin flaps should be open or partially open whenever possible for increased ventilation. At no time should non-family members share a bed.

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 for 2020–2021 troop year and 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 When are we required to wear masks?

A: At this time masks are required by all participants for all Girl Scout related activities unless members are consistently and safely 6 or more feet apart. For meals, snacks, and photographs without masks members should be appropriately socially-distanced. Members should wear their masks in sleeping quarters until stationary and ready for sleep. Members should wear their masks in restroom facilities unless socially-distanced and engaged in showering or teeth brushing. Masks are required while carpooling.

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 exposed to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 should quarantine and refrain from all in-person Girl Scout activity for 14 days.

Q: Can we meet at a private home for troop activities?

A: Meetings in home are permitted. Special consideration must be taken to ensure that the space is adequate for social distancing and that there is not increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 for members or residents of the home. Troops must complete the [Meeting Place Agreement for Personal Residences](#) and submit this for approval before meeting. All members of the leadership team must view the space and approve of the location. Adequate sanitizing must take place before each meeting and non-members are not permitted to be present during meetings.

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: As a volunteer, I'm not yet comfortable with face-to-face meetings. What should we do?

A: Just as we want all families to have a participation pathway that is comfortable for them, we want to be sure all volunteers do as well. Work with the leadership team of your troop to determine what you will plan as you move forward. You can continue virtually, host a drive-by event for your troop, allow volunteers that are comfortable in-person to carry out in-person activities, etc. Just be sure to communicate with families and offer alternative pathways of participation if your troop is not meeting in-person or virtually.

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

A: Yes. The standards laid out in our [Interim COVID-19 Guidance](#) are now GSGCF policies and are based on the most current best practices of GSUSA, the State of Florida, and the CDC. All volunteers must review and complete an updated [Volunteer Position Agreement](#) before resuming meetings.

Q: Once someone is vaccinated, do they have to continue to practice the safety protocols as outlined by GSUSA and the CDC, such as social distancing and wearing a mask?

A: Yes. For the protection of all members as well as the families and communities we serve, GSGCF will continue to practice, and encourage all members to practice, all CDC-recommended health and safety protocols, regardless of whether or not an individual has received the vaccine.

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.