

List of Changes in Volunteer Essentials 2016-17

Safety-Activity Checkpoints Changes

NEW activities added:

- Adventure & Theme Parks
- Playgrounds
- Shooting Sports
- SUP (Stand-Up Paddleboarding)

NEW activities "NOT ALLOWED TO-DO":

- Horseback vaulting
- Indoor skydiving
- Indoor trampolining
- Sledding, Tobogganing, Snow-Tubing – outside of a commercial resort

CHANGES to activities added:

- Sledding, Tobogganing, Snow-Tubing ONLY ALLOWED at commercial resorts
- Ziplining – Girl Scouts are required to use a council-approved venue.
- Caving checkpoint name changed to Spelunking
- Cookie Sale/Fall Product Sale checkpoint renamed to Girl Scout Cookie/Council-Sponsored Product Sale
- Group Camping checkpoint renamed to Camping

GSVSC Refund Policy

The GSVSC Cancellation Policy has been renamed and reworked as a refund policy:

P13 GSVSC Refund Policy: refunds will not be issued for less than \$5. If you decide to cancel/withdraw from a program, event, trip, camp or training, then the refund received will be as follows:

- > 100% refund for five or less business days following registration deadline
- > 75% refund for six to ten business days following registration deadline
- > 50% refund for 11 to 15 business days following registration deadline
- > 0% refund for 16 or more business days following registration deadline

Procedures

- GSVSC volunteer hosting programs, events, camps, and trainings will utilize the GSVSC cancellation policy.
- Non-Girl Scout program collaborators running approved programs have the right to set and enforce their own cancellation policies. These policies must be mutually agreed-upon with collaborators and clearly stated on registration materials.

Girl Scout Service Units

Service units may conduct money-earning events throughout the year.

VF11 Girl Scout Communities may conduct money-earning events throughout the membership year to provide activities that grow and retain its Girl Scout members.

Procedures

- Girl Scout communities must follow money-earning guidelines as outlined in the GSUSA **Blue Book of Basic Documents** and **Volunteer Essentials**.
- Girl Scout communities conducting money-earning events must have a GS community bank account, and a council-appointed and -trained finance facilitator and event facilitator to be eligible.
- The GS community event facilitator is responsible for submitting an event application for approval and a final report for each money-earning event.
- Money earned is intended for Girl Scout community activities and needs, and is not to be used or retained by individuals/groups/troops.

Adults at Booth Sales

Troops need to have at least two adults present at all times during a cookie or fall product booth sale; they do not need to be background checked.

VF5 The Girl Scout community booth coordinator must be notified whenever a troop/group/individual girl plans to sell cookies/fall products at booth sales. All troops/groups/individual girls must have at least two adults present at all times for council sponsored booth sales.

Procedures

- Refer to Safety Activity Checkpoints for additional information about adult-to-girl ratios for activities.

Council Restructure

Your Girl Scout council has a new look. Council staff has been realigned in response to budget cuts, [new US Department of Labor overtime law](#), and [Girl Scouts of the USA's customer engagement initiative](#). Here's a summary of the changes which took place on August 1, 2016:

- [New Council Support Services Map \(#1008a\)](#) and [new staff directory](#);
- Elimination of three positions (program manager, events manager and HR director);
- 16 positions moved to hourly wages (limited to work 40 hours/week);
- Two furloughs (council HQ, camps, field offices and shop closed): November 21-27, 2016 and July 3-9, 2017.

With the majority of our staff moving to a limited 40-hour work week, please be patient as we adjust to a new way of work. If you have any questions, please contact the CEO (ceo@qsvsc.org).

NAME CHANGE: Your Local Girl Scout Service Unit

With your council's move to a new national volunteer customer care model, we need to change to the national terminology of "service unit." We will transition from Girl Scout community to Girl Scout service unit over the coming year. Your local name will remain the same: Rockburg Service Unit, SAW Service Unit, Charlottesville/Albemarle Service Unit, Roanoke Valley Service Unit, etc. If you have any questions, please ask a council staffer. Thanks.

First Aid/CPR Section: American Red Cross Discount Info Added

Girl Scouts has collaborated with Red Cross to assist volunteers in obtaining the required training for First Aid/CPR. Use the Red Cross promotion code VSGSC0119 for the following Red Cross certifications and receive a 20% discount: First Aid, Adult & Pediatric CPR/AED, Adult FA/CPR/AED, and Adult & Pediatric FA/CPR/AED. To use the promotion code, you must sign up for a community class online at redcross.org. This code expires 1/31/19. The promotion code is only good for Red Cross certifications.

Transporting Girls Specific Driver Age Added: 21 Years of Age

Every driver must be a registered, approved adult volunteer (at least 21 years of age) and have a good driving record, a valid license, and a registered/insured vehicle.

Traveling with Girls

The entire section was updated with additional specifics. Added guidelines about including girls with disabilities. Updated the travel progression checklist.

The Triumph Award

This new Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council's award recognizes the outstanding accomplishment of earning all three top Girl Scouting Awards: the Bronze Award, Silver Award and Gold Award. Graduating senior Girl Scouts may apply to receive this award which includes the gift of a Girl Scout Lifetime Membership.