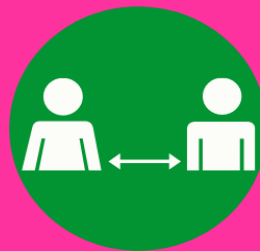
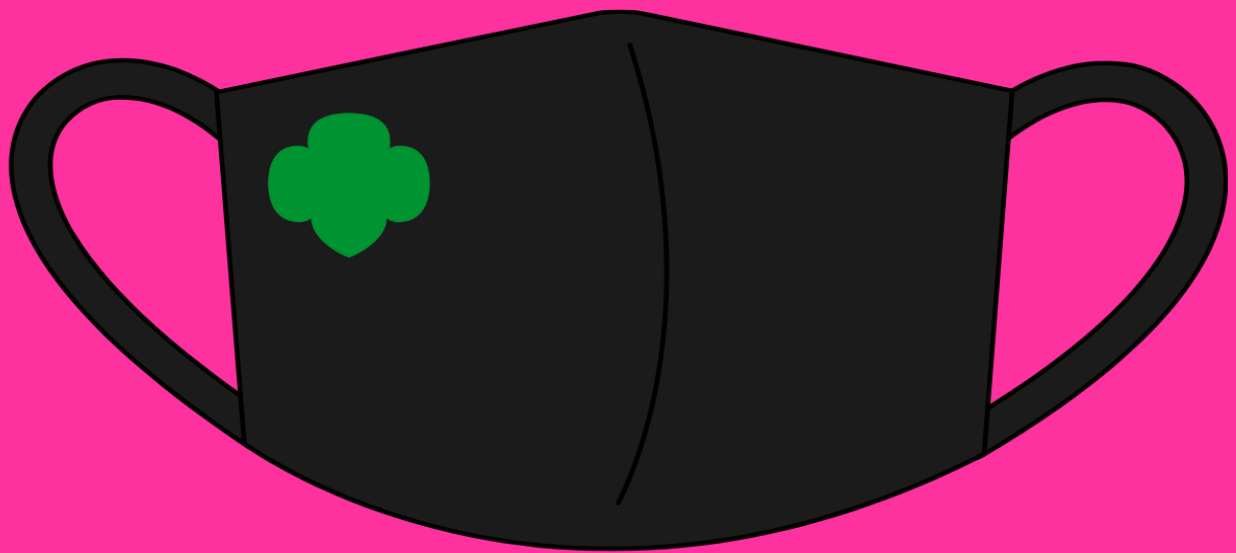


**girl scouts**  
of virginia skyline



**COVID-19 Response Guidelines  
For Volunteers**

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# GSVSC COVID-19 Guidelines for Girl Scouts

## Working Together to Keep Our Girl Scout Community Safe

Updated: **April 1, 2022**

Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline members and staff remain committed to providing our girls the consistency of Girl Scouts during these times of uncertainty. Whether gathering virtually or in-person, safety remains our cornerstone.

This information is updated in response to any significant changes in our communities related to COVID-19; **therefore, the phases and guidelines are subject to future changes.**

Council is the first source for information on COVID-19 specific guidelines and restrictions for Girl Scouts. Girl Scouts should always follow the guidance of their local council. The council has adopted a phased approach to guide safe gathering. We recognize that our council spans many jurisdictions with ever-changing COVID-related decisions. Therefore, if local county/city government guidelines are more restrictive than the council guidelines, Girl Scouts are expected to follow the local county/city government's guidelines (e.g., group size limits, mask use, social distancing, or travel restrictions) where Girl Scout activities are being carried out. To check current state government guidelines from surrounding areas, please visit:

**District of Columbia**

**Maryland**

**North Carolina**

**Virginia**

**West Virginia**

**Tennessee**

**Georgia**

We will continue to monitor local and national directives, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Virginia Department of Health. The guidance we provide is intended to be used in conjunction with Safety Activity Checkpoints in accordance with our council's individual state and local COVID-19 circumstances which remain fluid. If updates from sources such as Girl Scouts of the USA, the governor's office, Virginia Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control or National Institutes of Health lead to changes in our evaluation of the situation, then we will communicate via our website, The Girl Scout Connections digital e-newsletter, and social media.

The council is currently operating in **Phase V**. If other variants or guidance warrants it, the council may move back to phase IV, III, II, or phase I.

Please review these updates regarding COVID-19. These guidelines will remain in place until further notice.

## When Girl Scouts Meet In-Person (Overview)

We recommend participants follow guidelines outlined by Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council, Girl Scouts of the USA, and recommendations made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

*It is to be understood that a communicable disease is **NOT COVERED** under the Girl Scouts of the USA's general liability policy provided through Girl Scout membership.* If you have questions regarding the purchase of additional insurance coverage, please contact the council at [info@gsvsc.org](mailto:info@gsvsc.org).

As long as COVID-19 is considered a pandemic, meeting outdoors is still preferred over meeting indoors; virtual or hybrid meeting options can be made available, but is not a requirement. ***Troop, group, or service unit volunteers are not required to include, replicate, or duplicate Girl Scouting programs or meetings activities as a virtual or hybrid experience before, during, or after any troop, group, or service unit in-person Girl Scout programs or meeting activities.***

If families are uncomfortable with in-person gatherings, refer parents/guardians to [GSUSA Girl Scouting at Home](#) or [GSVSC virtual or at home opportunities](#). Girls have the option to participate as a Juliette and have their membership changed to an individually registered Girl Scout member (IRM). Parents or guardians should contact [info@gsvsc.org](mailto:info@gsvsc.org) for assistance.

## Council Phases: Operating in Phase V

**Effective April 1, 2022, until further notice:** Council is currently operating in **Phase V**.

### COVID-19 **Phase V** (Overview)

#### 1. Key Revisions:

- a. Individuals are not required to be vaccinated to participate in Girl Scouting unless required by other entities (e.g., venues, facilities, public transportation, and/or by state, tribal, local, and territorial governments.) **Note:** Girl Scout activities that involve travel may require proof of vaccinations based on destination or mode of transportation
- b. Masking and social distancing are optional for most in-person Girl Scouting activities. See [Masks & Social Distancing](#) section for specific details. There are different masking and social distance guidelines for the 2022 Cookie Program and 2022 GSVSC Summer Camps. See [2022 Cookie Program guidelines](#) and "[Summer Camp](#)" section for complete details

#### 2. Eliminates:

- a. Routine COVID pre-screening temperature checks and pre-screening forms
  - **[NEW] #1081 COVID-19 Waiver Participation Agreement**; replaces other pre-screening forms. Must submit for each participant (adult and youth), one per membership year and, retained with troop/group and/or service unit records.

(#1081 is not required to be collected for in-person council-sponsored or service unit program, event, gathering, or training when pre-registration is required and there is record of attendance and participation)

- b. COVID restrictions for indoor/outdoor gathering sizes. Follow normal venue facility capacity limits. Refer to the [Safety Guidelines in Volunteer Essentials](#) for the Girl Scout girl-to-adult ratios for proper supervision.
- c. COVID restrictions for Overnights, Sleeping Accommodations & Shared Spaces. See "[Sleeping & Bathroom Accommodations](#)" for Council Policy and procedures for specific sleeping and bathroom accommodation guidelines
- d. COVID travel duration restrictions for local day, overnight, regional and national travel activities. Volunteers and girls are to review the [Travel/Trips Safety Activity Checkpoints](#), and consult the destination's [COVID-19 community levels](#) before traveling. State, country, tribal, local, and territorial governments may have travel restrictions in place. When traveling regionally or nationally, plan to include additional adult volunteers above the current ratios in case of a COVID-19 exposure or positive COVID-19 test while traveling. See "[Guidelines for Girl Scout Meetings, Activities, Programs & Travel](#)" for specific Girl Scout guidelines
- e. COVID vaccination restrictions for extended regional and national travel activities. Local day, overnight, regional and national travel/trips are permitted without vaccinations unless required by the destination's venues, facilities, public transportation, and/or by state, tribal, local, and territorial governments. Volunteers and girls are to review the [Travel/Trips Safety Activity Checkpoints](#), and consult the destination's [COVID-19 community levels](#) before traveling. State, tribal, local, and territorial governments may have travel restrictions in place. See "[Guidelines for Girl Scout Meetings, Activities, Programs & Travel](#)" for specific Girl Scout guidelines

### 3. Reduces:

- a. COVID restrictions for troop, group, and/or service unit carpooling, transporting Girl Scouts, and public transportation. Carpooling, transporting Girl Scouts & public transportation are permitted; recommend masking and social distancing when possible. **Masking required when traveling to and from Summer Day or Overnight Camp.** See "[Transportation Guidelines](#)" and "[Summer Camp](#)" section for specific Girl Scout guidelines

### 4. Permits:

- a. International travel\* (including cruises) on a limited basis. Tentative approval will be given for international travel that occurs after May 1, 2022. \*At least one year prior to trip departure, volunteers must have completed GSVSC GS 203 International Trip Training and a council-approved [Intent to Travel for International Trips \(#2279\)](#) form must be on file at Council
  - Girl Scouts **DO NOT travel to any locations ranked "Level 4: Do Not Travel"** by the [U.S. Department of State](#) (even if the ranking is solely based on COVID-19 risk)
  - Groups must obtain special permission from their local council to travel to locations ranked "**Level 3: Reconsider Travel**"

- Troop/groups must have alternative plans should international travel activities not be approved or have to be postponed or canceled. Strongly recommend purchase of travel insurance, specifically Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) insurance
- **[New]** GSUSA has indicated no further extensions can be given to extend the use of troop funds for all members who are graduating high school in 2022, or graduated in 2021/2020. All members who are graduating high school in 2022, or graduated in 2021, should work out a plan to spend down their funds **before their girl membership expires on 9/30/22**
- Additional supervision above and beyond the adult-to-girl ratio may be required in case of a COVID-19 exposure or positive COVID-19 test while traveling
- Volunteers and girls are to review the [Travel/Trips Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) and consult each destination's COVID-19 guidelines
- Approval for cruise ship travel will be based on [CDC Cruise Ship Travel during COVID-19](#) guidance & [Cruise Ship Status Dashboard](#) statuses. Cruise must be rated **Green** or **Yellow** for council approval
- Vaccinations/proof of vaccinations may be required based on destination. Country, tribal, local, and territorial governments may have additional travel restrictions in place. See "[Guidelines for Girl Scout Meetings, Activities, Programs & Travel](#)" for specific international/cruise ship travel Girl Scout guidelines

## 5. Requires:

- a. All participants (adult and youth) to submit of a **[NEW]** ONE-TIME [#1081 COVID-19 Waiver Participation Agreement](#), per membership year. See [form](#) for specific instructions and detail
- b. All participants follow COVID mitigation and preventive guidance as indicated [by the CDC](#). See [COVID-19 Exposure Mitigation Guidelines](#) for details
  - All participants follow separate guidelines for [2022 Cookie Program](#)
  - All participants follow [separate guidelines for 2022 Summer camp](#) (subject to change prior to first day of camp)

## 6. New changes:

- **[New]** VDH has refocused its contact tracing efforts. Volunteers are able to handle reports of COVID-19 positive tests or known exposures. See "[Reporting a COVID-19 Positive Test or Known Exposure](#)" for specific guidelines.
- **[New]** GSUSA has indicated no further extensions can be given to extend the use of troop funds for all members who are graduating high school in 2022, or graduated in 2021/2020. All members who are graduating high school in 2022, or graduated in 2021, should work out a plan to spend down their funds **before their girl membership expires on 9/30/22**. (This is because all funds earned on behalf of Girl Scouts must be used to support girls' experiences within Girl Scouts; it cannot be used to support adult experiences, and members transition out of girl membership the September after they graduate from high school. Due to COVID, limited extensions were previously made for girls who graduated in 2020 and 2021 to extend use of funds, but **no further extensions are permissible**.)

## Headquarters Office & Shop Hours

The Virginia Skyline open office hours are **Mondays through Thursdays from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM**. We will maintain phone and email support **Mondays through Thursdays from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM** and on **Fridays from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM**. You can reach our **Customer Care Team via email and phone via [info@gsvsc.org](mailto:info@gsvsc.org) and 540-777-5100**.

The Skyline Shop support will continue to be via email ([skylineshop@gsvsc.org](mailto:skylineshop@gsvsc.org)) for scheduled pickups or by mail. **Orders can be placed 24/7 with Girl Scouts of the USA online.**

The shop will reopen one day per month by appointment. See the Girl Scout Connections weekly newsletter for dates and times. Please contact the shop by email ([skylineshop@gsvsc.org](mailto:skylineshop@gsvsc.org)). Two shoppers at a time will be allowed in The Skyline Shop. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at [info@gsvsc.org](mailto:info@gsvsc.org) or 540-777-5100. We look forward to seeing you in person at headquarters! Consult the Girl Scout Connection for any changes in Skyline Shop hours.

## Girl Scout Family Guidelines

It is to be understood that meeting in-person is a personal decision families must make for their girls and individuals must make for themselves.

It is to be understood that a communicable disease is not covered under the Girl Scouts of the USA's general liability policy provided through Girl Scout membership. Additional insurance coverage is available for purchase. Please contact the council at [info@gsvsc.org](mailto:info@gsvsc.org) for additional information.

Vaccines are an important tool to help stop the COVID-19 pandemic. Girl Scouts cannot require families, girls or volunteers to vaccinate. The decision to vaccinate is a personal decision families must make for their girls and individual adults must make for themselves. **However, we reserve the right to limit or exclude participation based on vaccination status or require COVID testing for activities that pose a higher risk.**

Parents are to ensure their child does not have a fever or feel ill prior to their participation in any in-person meeting, gathering, or Girl Scout activity. **Child must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and all symptoms must have improved.**

All individuals who are ill, living with someone who is ill or showing symptoms or in a high-risk category may not participate in in-person meetings or gatherings.

Parent/guardian must complete the one-time **[#1081 COVID-19 Waiver Participation Agreement](#)** for each adult or youth participant.



All individuals who are awaiting results of a COVID-19 test due to symptoms or potential exposure may **not participate in any in-person Girl Scout meetings, gatherings or activities**. This also includes individuals who live in a household where a household member is awaiting results of a COVID-19 test. (This does not include pre-travel testing.)

Keep girls Girl Scout health records current. Report any known exposure or positive COVID-19 test immediately to your volunteer troop or group leader or staff in charge of the activity.

As long as COVID-19 is considered a pandemic, meeting outdoors is still preferred over meeting indoors; virtual or hybrid meeting options can be made available, but is not a requirement. ***Troop, group, or service unit volunteers are not required to include, replicate, or duplicate Girl Scouting programs or meetings activities as a virtual or hybrid experience before, during, or after any troop, group, or service unit in-person Girl Scout programs or meeting activities.***

If families are uncomfortable with in-person gatherings, there are virtual Girl Scout opportunities available: **GSUSA Girl Scouting at Home** and **GSVSC virtual or at home opportunities**. Girls have the option to participate as a Juliette and have their membership changed to an individually registered Girl Scout member (IRM). Parents or guardians should contact [info@gsvsc.org](mailto:info@gsvsc.org) for assistance.

## Face Masks Guidelines

- Mask wearing\* is optional for most in-person Girl Scout gatherings or activities, if no county or state mask mandates are in place.
- Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth may be required for indoor areas of public transportation (including airplanes) and indoors in U.S. transportation hubs (including airports). Verify before you go.
- Wearing a mask is required if providing food service.
- Masks are to be worn by all persons during all travel to and from summer camp.
- **\*NOTE: There are different masking and social distance guidelines for the 2022 Cookie Program and 2022 GSVSC Summer Camps. See [2022 Cookie Program guidelines](#) and ["Summer Camp"](#) section for complete details.**

## Social Distancing Guidelines

- Social distancing\* is optional for most in-person Girl Scout gathering or activities, if no county or state mask mandates are in place.
- Indoor gatherings are no longer restricted by the square footage for social distancing. Follow normal venue facility capacity limits.
- **\*NOTE: There are different masking and social distance guidelines for the 2022 Cookie Program and 2022 GSVSC Summer Camps. See [2022 Cookie Program guidelines](#) and ["Summer Camp"](#) section for complete details.**

# COVID-19 Exposure Mitigation Guidelines

Follow the resources developed by credible public health sources such as the **Centers for Disease Control and Protection** (CDC) or your local public health department.

- [Get vaccinated](#) and [boosted](#)!
- [Know Your COVID-19 Community Level](#)
- [Watch for symptoms](#): Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea
- Follow CDC guidelines for "[When and How to Wash Your Hands](#)"
- Feeling sick? [Check symptoms with Self-Checker](#) and [get tested](#) for current infection!
- Stay home if you are sick. Review CDC Guidelines on "[How to Protect Yourself & Others](#)"
- Follow CDC Guidelines on "[What to Do If You Are Sick](#)"
- [Know when to quarantine or isolate](#)
- Follow [CDC Guidelines](#) for when you can return to Girl Scouting

**Caution:** Hugs, handshakes, high-fives and even activities like the friendship circle or squeeze can transmit COVID-19 from person-to-person. Refrain from these gestures. Create a safe way for members to greet and end meetings without physical contact.

We recommend games and activities be chosen to ensure physical contact or close contact longer than 10 minutes does not happen.

Avoid the use of shared materials such as markers, scissors, etc. by having each girl provide her own box of items. This box can be carried to and from the meeting by the individual girl. If collected and stored in one location, each box should be wiped off with sanitizing wipe before being stored and before being reused. If there are shared items, sanitize each item before and after each person uses the item.

Provide trash baskets or bags for meeting and activity spaces, if not already available. Make sure that the trash baskets or bags are always easily accessible.

# Guidelines for Girl Scout Meetings, Activities, Programs & Travel

- **Masks & Social Distancing\***

- Mask wearing is optional for most in-person Girl Scout gatherings or activities, if no county or state mask mandates are in place
- Social distancing is optional for most in-person Girl Scout gathering or activities, if no county or state mask mandates are in place
- Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth may be required for indoor areas of public transportation (including airplanes) and indoors in U.S. transportation hubs (including airports). Verify before you go
- Continue to follow all COVID mitigation and preventive guidance as indicated [by the CDC](#). See "[COVID-19 Exposure Mitigation Guidelines](#)" for details

**\*NOTE: There are different masking and social distance guidelines for the 2022 Cookie Program and 2022 GSVSC Summer Camps. See [2022 Cookie Program guidelines](#) and "[Summer Camp](#)" section for complete details**

- **Indoor & Outdoor gatherings**

- Indoor gatherings are no longer restricted by the square footage for social distancing. Follow normal venue facility capacity limits
- Outdoor gatherings sizes are no longer restricted
- Outdoors is still preferred to indoors, whenever possible
- Virtual or hybrid meeting options can be made available for those who are unable to meet in-person, but not required. ***Troop, group, or service unit volunteers are not required to include, replicate, or duplicate Girl Scouting programs or meetings activities as a virtual or hybrid experience before, during, or after any troop, group, or service unit in-person Girl Scout programs or meeting activities***

- **In-person Troop/Group/Service Unit Meetings**

- Pre-screen temperature checks and pre-screen forms are NOT required
- Volunteers **MUST**:
  - Collect a one-time [#1081 COVID-19 Waiver Participation Agreement](#)\* for each participant (adult and youth) and retain with health records per membership year
  - Continue to consistently clean areas before and after all in-person meetings or activities
  - Continue to have hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies available for all in-person meetings or activities
  - Follow [COVID-19 exposure reporting procedures](#) as outlined in this document

**\*New** Every individual participant must complete the **ONE-TIME** online [COVID-19 Waiver Participation Agreement \(#1081\)](#) prior to their next participation in Girl Scouting. For any in-person council-sponsored or service unit program, event, gathering, or training where participants are required to pre-register and attendance is taken, a #1081 COVID-19 Waiver Participation Agreement does not have to be collected

**Individuals are required to:**

- 1) Complete the #1081 COVID-19 Waiver Participation Agreement only once per participant (adult and youth), per membership year (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30)
- 2) Print and/or forward a copy of the #1081 COVID-19 Waiver Participation agreement confirmation email to the troop/group leader. Troops/groups must retain a copy of the #1081 COVID-19 Waiver Participation Agreement for every participant with the health records
- 3) Print and/or forward a copy of of the #1081 COVID-19 Waiver Participation agreement confirmation email to the local Service Unit Team. The Service Unit Team must retain a copy of the #1081 COVID-19 Waiver Participation Agreement for every individual participating in in-person meetings or gatherings when pre-registration and attendance is not recorded
- 4) Retain a copy of the completed #1081 COVID-19 Waiver Participation Agreement in personal records. A printed or digital copy may be required prior to participation in a Service Unit or Council-sponsored Girl Scout activity or due to an instance of COVID exposure or positive test result

**Volunteers are to discontinue the use of #1082 COVID-19 Questionnaire and #1083 COVID-19 Waiver. These have been archived and are no longer required prior to every instance of participation.**

- **Troop, Group, or Service Unit Meeting Locations**

Meeting outdoors is preferred over meeting indoors; local parks, schools, or outdoor community or church pavilions are encouraged.

**Troop/group meetings in the home are not permissible.** Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) has always discouraged troop/group meetings in the home. GSUSA does not allow troop/group meetings in the home.

Virtual meetings can save on travel expenses and time. Virtual meetings can help increase attendance by reducing the need for childcare. If a troop, group, or service unit would like to purchase a gsZoom account, they must complete the [Zoom survey](#) to request a gsZoom license. Virtual, hybrid meetings (in-person & virtual) or phone conferences can be offered when in-person only meetings are not plausible for the majority of the participants, but it is not a requirement.

***Troop, group, or service unit volunteers are not required to include, replicate, or duplicate Girl Scouting programs or meetings activities as a virtual or hybrid experience before, during, or after any troop, group, or service unit in-person Girl Scout programs or meeting activities.***

Meeting virtually does enable us to add more into our already overbooked daily schedules. It may

take time to adjust to the additional preparations required to transition back to in-person. Troops, groups, and/or service units should discuss with members to assess when to safely transition back to in person meetings.

- **Troop or group spending for activities**

- All families may not be ready to have their daughters meet with the troop/group in person. When planning activities or trips, volunteers should ensure 75% of the active girls are able to participate. All girl members work really hard during the Council-sponsored product sales and will want to enjoy the outings that had been previously canceled. Be patient, communicate troop/group plans thoroughly, and often.
- **Continue your usual diligence to avoid individual accounting.** Mixed-grade and multi-level troops/groups who have money-earned together should continue to make group decisions on use of funds. See [Council Policy VF12](#) on avoiding risk of private benefit.
- **[New]** GSUSA has indicated no further extensions can be given to extend the use of troop funds for all members who are graduating high school in 2022, or graduated in 2021/2020. All members who are graduating high school in 2022, or graduated in 2021, should work out a plan to spend down their funds **before their girl membership expires on 9/30/22.** (This is because all funds earned on behalf of Girl Scouts must be used to support girls' experiences within Girl Scouts; it cannot be used to support adult experiences, and members transition out of girl membership the September after they graduate from high school. Due to COVID, limited extensions were previously made for girls who graduated in 2020 and 2021 to extend use of funds, but **no further extensions are permissible.**
- Graduating young alums from 2021 or graduating girls from 2022 can take advantage of the "young alum" discount by purchasing a [Lifetime Membership](#) or purchase an adult annual membership for the 2022-2023 membership year. Girl Scout funds cannot be used to purchase Lifetime Memberships for adults (e.g., troop leaders, parents/guardians, etc.) See "[GSVSC COVID-19 Fund Guidelines for Young Alums and Graduating Seniors.](#)"

- **Activity/Travel/Trip Permissions**

- **Obtain Council Permission.** Submit an [Activity/Trip Permission \(2129\)](#) to obtain council approval for activities and travel that involve **a)** a day or overnight trip that includes non-registered participants; **b)** a day or overnight trip outside council boundaries; **c)** trips or overnights of 2 nights/3 days or more; **d)** travel outside the continental US **e)** camping activities, including backyard camping, campfires, outdoor cooking and cabin camping; **f)** programs that include human sexuality and related health issues; **g)** activities that present a greater risk than usual to participants. Refer to the [Council Policy P1](#).
- Volunteers and girls should review the [Travel/Trips Safety Activity Checkpoints](#), and consult destination county/city/state government requirements during planning
- Obtain signed parent/caregiver permission slips prior to girl participation in activities away from the regular troop or group meeting place
- Continue to practice the Hygiene and COVID-19 Risk Mitigation guidance outlined in this document

- Communicate and enforce all Council safety and COVID guidelines, as well as COVID guidelines for the state/local destination to which troops/groups are traveling
- Follow proper COVID-19 exposure reporting procedures as outlined in this document.
- **Girl Scouts may NOT combine Girl Scouting activities or travel with friends/family activities or travel as a means to avoid following Safety Activity Checkpoints, Council Policies, or COVID-19 Restrictions**

### ***"It's Not Girl Scout Approved" – It's Not a Good Idea!***

Occasionally, a Girl Scout volunteer, in an effort to support the girls in the activities they would like to participate in, will decide to tell the girls and families that they will do the activity "as friends, and not as a Girl Scout troop or group" rather than find an approved vendor or modify the activity in order to comply with all safety guidelines. Then the girls in the active troop/group, supervised by the Girl Scout volunteers, engage in the activity together, and the supervising adults choose not to follow policies and procedures established in Volunteer Essentials, in a Safety Activity Checkpoint or COVID-19 guidelines. This could jeopardize the girls' safety and also puts both the Council and the volunteer(s) at legal risk, because courts may look beyond the words to the actions (the girls in the troop/group, supervised by the Girl Scout volunteers, engaged in the activity together). It may also expose the volunteer to some personal liability if there is an accident, injury or liability that might have been avoided had the volunteer followed Girl Scout safety guidelines. **It is important to note that Girl Scout insurance does not cover participants in non-Girl Scout events, activities, or travel experiences. Girl Scout funds cannot be used for non-Girl Scout events, activities or travel experiences.**

#### ● **Sleeping Accommodations**

- There are no COVID sleeping accommodation restrictions
- See "**Sleeping & Bathroom Accommodations**" for specific Girl Scout guidelines

#### ● **Carpooling/Transporting Girl Scouts**

- Carpooling/transporting Girl Scouts is permitted without restrictions unless traveling to and from Summer Day or Overnight Camp.
- See "**Transportation Guidelines**" and "**Summer Camp**" sections for specific guidelines

#### ● **Public Transportation**

- Public transportation is permitted without restrictions unless traveling to and from Summer Day or Overnight Camp.
- Masks are required at all times while in planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling within the United States and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations.
- See "**Transportation Guidelines**" and "**Summer Camp**" sections for specific public transportation guideline details.

- **Local Day or Overnight Trips/Activities**
  - Local Day and Overnight trips/activities are permitted for all age levels as outlined in the [Girl Scout Travel Progression](#).
  - Additional Girl Scout Activity Insurance must be purchased for any day activities involving non-members (tag-a-longs).
  - Additional Girl Scout Activity Insurance must be purchased for overnights longer than three days/two nights.
  - Requires volunteers to complete GSVSC 201 Trips & Overnight training and may require council permission by submitting an [Activity/Trip Permission \(2129\)](#). Refer to the [Council Policy P1](#)
  
- **Regional and National Travel**
  - Regional and National are permitted as outlined in the [Girl Scout Travel Progression](#)
  - There are no vaccination restrictions, unless it is required for the state/local destination to which troops/groups are traveling. Volunteers and girls are to research and plan accordingly
  - Additional Girl Scout activity insurance must be purchased
  - At least 75% of active girls in the troop or group must be able to participate in the travel/trip or activity
  - Additional supervision above and beyond the adult-to-girl ratio may be required in case of a COVID-19 exposure or positive COVID-19 test while traveling
  - For troop/group Regional travel, girls must be Juniors or older. **No exceptions**
  - For troop/group National travel, girls must be Cadettes or older. **No exceptions**
  - Requires volunteers to complete GSVSC 201 Trips & Overnight training and requires council permission by submitting an [Activity/Trip Permission \(2129\)](#). Refer to the [Council Policy P1](#)
  - See "[Girl Scout Travel Progression](#)" for further details
  
- **International Travel**
  - **International travel is permitted on a limited basis**
  - Tentative approval will be given for international travel that occurs after May 1, 2022. (Dates subject to change based on US/VA travel guidelines and/or restrictions)
  - For International or Independent travel, girls must be Cadettes or older. **No exceptions**
  - Girl Scout members **DO NOT travel to any locations ranked "Level 4: Do Not Travel"** by the [U.S. Department of State](#) (even if the ranking is solely based on COVID-19 risk)
  - Groups must obtain special permission from their local council to travel to locations ranked "Level 3: Reconsider Travel." See "[Travel/Trips Safety Activity Checkpoints](#)" for details
  - Troop/groups must have alternative plans should international travel activities not be approved or have to be postponed or canceled. Strongly recommend purchase of travel insurance, specifically Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) insurance
  - **[New]** GSUSA has indicated no further extensions can be given to extend the use of troop funds for all members who are graduating high school in 2022, or graduated in 2021/2020.

All members who are graduating high school in 2022, or graduated in 2021, should work out a plan to spend down their funds **before their girl membership expires on 9/30/22**

- Additional supervision above and beyond the adult-to-girl ratio may be required in case of a COVID-19 exposure or positive COVID-19 test while traveling
- \*At least one year prior to trip departure, volunteers must have completed GSVSC GS 203 International Trip Training and a council-approved [Intent to Travel for International Trips \(#2279\)](#) form must be on file at Council
- See "[Girl Scout Travel Progression](#)" for further details

- **Cruise Ship Travel**

- **Cruise ship travel is permitted on a limited basis**
- Tentative approval will be given for international travel that occurs after May 1, 2022.
- For cruise ship travel (International), girls must be Cadettes or older. **No exceptions**
- Approval for cruise ship travel will be based on [CDC Cruise Ship Travel during COVID-19](#) guidance & [Cruise Ship Status Dashboard](#) statuses. Cruises must be rated **Green** or **Yellow** for consideration of council approval
- Cruises traveling to destinations that are rated "**Level 4: Do Not Travel**" by the [U.S. Department of State](#) (even if the ranking is solely based on COVID-19 risk) **will not be approved**
- Groups must obtain special permission from their local council to travel to locations ranked "**Level 3: Reconsider Travel.**" See [Travel/Trips Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) for details
- Troop/groups must have alternative plans should international cruise ship travel activities not be approved or have to be postponed or canceled. Strongly recommend purchase of travel insurance, specifically Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) insurance
- **[New]** GSUSA has indicated no further extensions can be given to extend the use of troop funds for all members who are graduating high school in 2022, or graduated in 2021/2020. All members who are graduating high school in 2022, or graduated in 2021, should work out a plan to spend down their funds **before their girl membership expires on 9/30/22**
- Additional supervision above and beyond the adult-to-girl ratio may be required in case of a COVID-19 exposure or positive COVID-19 test while traveling
- \*At least one year prior to trip departure, volunteers must have completed GSVSC GS 203 International Trip Training and a council-approved [Intent to Travel for International Trips \(#2279\)](#) form must be on file at Council



# Girl Scout Travel Progression

## Travel Progression (as defined by GSVSC & GSUSA)

**Note:** Prior to any day or overnight activities that involve camping, campfires, and/or any type of outdoor cooking, GSVSC requires volunteers complete GSVSC Outdoor Education training and council permission by submitting an [Activity/Trip Permission \(2129\)](#) and receive approval from Council

**For troop/group Regional travel, girls must be Juniors or older. No exceptions.**

**For troop/group National, International or Independent travel, girls must be Cadettes or older. No Exceptions.**

### Local Field Trips\*

Involves a short trip away from the regular troop/group meeting place within the local community within our council footprint or a local community directly bordering the community and council. Field trip is not typically an all-day activity; **must not involve troop/group activities that require an overnight stay**

### Day Trips\*

Involves an all day trip within our local state of Virginia or states that directly border Virginia (Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina, also Washington D.C.); activities and travel may take place over one extended day but **must not require an overnight stay**

### Overnights\*

May involve a sleepover, lockin, or a trip within our local state of Virginia or states that directly border Virginia (Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina, also Washington D.C.); activities and travel takes place over a period that is **no longer than three days/two nights**

### Regional Trips\*

Involves travel outside the state of Virginia, but remains along the East Coast region only (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, and Florida.); activities and travel usually takes place over a period that may be longer than three days/two nights but typically **no longer than 10-14 days**

### (Domestic) National Trips\*

Involves travel outside of Virginia and the East Coast Region but remains within the lower 48 states/Continental US; activities and travel usually takes place over a period that may be 3 to 14 days or more; travel may involve public transportation by plane, train, or bus

## International Trips/Cruises\*\*

Involves travel to Hawaii, Alaska, other countries and/or travel by cruise ship. Activities and travel takes place over a period that may be anywhere from 5 to 21 days or more. Troops/groups should take one to three years to prepare.

## Independent Travel

Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador girls with travel experience can travel nationally or internationally independently through council-offered travel opportunities or GSUSA's Destinations Program. Previous girl travel experience required. Travel takes place over a period that may be anywhere from 3 to 21 days or more

**\*Requires** volunteers to complete GSVSC 201 Trips & Overnight training and may require council permission by submitting an [Activity/Trip Permission \(2129\)](#). Refer to the [Council Policy P1](#)

**\*\*Requires** volunteers to complete GSVSC 203 International Trip Training, submit an [Intent to Travel for International Trips \(#2279\)](#) one-year prior to trip departure, and council permission by submitting an [Activity/Trip Permission \(2129\)](#). See [Volunteer Training](#) for additional details or [request additional training](#)

## Transportation Guidelines

How parents/guardians decide to transport girls between their homes and Girl Scout meeting places is each parent's/guardian's decision and responsibility.

- **Carpooling is permitted.** Carpooling is permitted without COVID-19 household restrictions unless traveling to and from Summer Day or Overnight Camp:
  - When parents/guardians carpool to and from Summer Day or Overnight Camps, all youth (ages 2 and above) and adults **must wear a mask** at all times when inside a motor vehicle regardless of vaccination status
  - Avoid overcrowding; space out passengers and every individual **must** wear a seatbelt
  - Avoid eating or drinking in the vehicle
  - Keep vehicle windows open, at least partially, to circulate fresh air and provide ventilation
  - See "[Summer Camp](#)" sections for specific guidelines
- **Transporting girls is permitted.** When transporting girls for planned Girl Scout field trips, Summer Camp, and other activities —outside the regular meeting time and place— in which the troop or group of girls will be transported in private vehicles, school bus, charter bus, or rented vehicle by Girl Scout volunteers:
  - Obtain signed parent/caregiver permission slips prior to transporting girls
  - All youth (ages 2 and above) and adults **must wear a mask** at all times when inside a motor vehicle, regardless of vaccination status, when traveling to and from Summer Day or Overnight Camp
  - Avoid overcrowding; space out passengers and every individual **must** wear a seatbelt.

- Avoid eating or drinking in the vehicle
  - Keep vehicle windows open, at least partially, to circulate fresh air and provide ventilation.
  - Every driver must be a registered, approved adult volunteer (at least 21 of age) and have a good driving record, a valid driver's license, and a registered/insured vehicle
  - Each driver takes rest breaks every two hours, and drives no more than six hours in one day. There should be a relief driver for trips of more than six hours
  - Drivers will not use cell phones or electronic devices for talking or texting while driving
  - Girls **NEVER** drive other girls
  - If a group is traveling in one vehicle, there must be at least two unrelated, approved adult volunteers in the vehicle, one of whom is female, and the girl-volunteer ratios in Volunteer Essentials must be followed. Care should be taken so that a single car (with a single adult driver) is not separated from the group for an extended length of time
  - Continue to practice the Hygiene and COVID-19 Risk Mitigation guidance outlined in this document
  - Keep a copy of #1081 COVID-19 Waiver Participation Agreement for each participant with their health record
  - Communicate and enforce all Council safety and COVID guidelines, as well as COVID guidelines for the state/local destination to which troops/groups are traveling
  - Follow proper COVID-19 exposure reporting procedures as outlined in this document
  - See "**Summer Camp**" sections for specific guidelines
- **Public transportation is permitted.** Public transportation is permitted without COVID-19 restrictions unless traveling to and from Summer Day or Overnight Camp:
    - All youth (ages 2 and above) and adults **must wear a mask** at all times when inside a motor vehicle, regardless of vaccination status, when traveling to and from Summer Day or Overnight Camp
    - Avoid overcrowding; space out passengers and every individual **must** wear a seatbelt when traveling in private vehicles, school buses, charter buses, rented vehicles or planes
    - Masks are required at all times while in planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling within the United States and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations:
      - Avoid peak hours.
      - Allow extra time to wait and avoid crowded buses, or subway cars, etc.
      - Clean hands before and after public transportation travel.
      - Space out girls to avoid overcrowding (but keep to the buddy system).
      - Follow guidelines for carpooling and transporting girls above.
    - See "**Summer Camp**" sections for specific guidelines

# Sleeping & Bathroom Accommodations

## Sleeping Accommodations

### Council Policy P9

Male volunteers **may not** sleep in the same space with girl members who are not their daughters.

### Council Policy Procedures

- Males may participate only if separate sleeping quarters and bathrooms are available for their use.
- Sleeping accommodations for such events should be announced in advance, and girls must be instructed NOT to enter the sleeping accommodations of males
- Men should not be among the adults supervising girls in the sleeping area for an event. The adult-to-girl ratio for the trip will need to be adjusted accordingly
- With written permission from the parent, males may sleep in the same space with "tag-along" brothers while on trips. At no time should the adult male and child be left alone together
- Each girl participant should have her own bed. Parent/guardian permission must be obtained if girls are to share a bed
- Girls and adults do not share a bed with the exceptions of mothers and daughters
- It is not mandatory that an adult sleep in the sleeping area (tent, cabin, or designated area) with the girls, but if an adult female does share the sleeping area, there should always be two unrelated adult females present

The only time that dads and daughters can share sleeping accommodations or a tent is when the event is specifically a family dad-daughter overnight or camp activity like "Dad & Me" Summer Camp or a Girl Scout family overnight, and each family household has their own separate sleeping accommodations or family tent, and everyone is participating as part of a family household unit and girls are being supervised by a parent/caregiver and not troop leaders.

## Bathroom Facilities

- For stays of three nights or fewer: one toilet and showerhead is required for every 15 people
- For stays of more than three nights: one toilet and showerhead is required for every 10 people
- There should also be a minimum of one hand washing station for every 4 toilets
- Ensure there is accessibility to bathrooms for people with disabilities
- Continue to clean and disinfected, particularly high-touch surfaces such as faucets, toilets, stall doors, doorknobs, countertops, diaper changing tables, and light switches
- If possible, provide hand sanitizer stations that are touch-free; ensure there are portable toilets accessible to those who may have disabilities

## Girl Scout Meetings in Public Spaces

Meeting outdoors is preferred over meeting indoors; local parks, schools, or outdoor community or church pavilions are encouraged.

**Troop meetings in the home are not permissible.** Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) has always discouraged troop meetings in the home. GSVSC does not allow troop meetings in the home.

Girl Scouts must obtain advance permission from the owner of the location or facilities being used. Schools or churches may not permit outside groups on premises, so always check and confirm ahead of time. For meetings at public facilities, ask the facility in advance:

- What is the responsibility of the troop co-leaders before and after meetings?

Always ensure Girl Scouts are abiding by the rules of the facility or meeting space and leave the facility better than they found it.

## Troop Meetings at Council Camps/Properties

Council camps/properties are available for use FREE of charge for troop meetings. [Submit your reservation to the council.](#)

Please understand the following guidelines:

- If reserved, troops/groups can use the outdoor spaces, including fire circles and pavilions, as well as bathrooms
- To build a fire, at least one troop volunteer must have appropriate GSVSC Outdoor Education training
- Specific program activities, areas and equipment may not be available
- Troops/groups must follow all GSVSC COVID-19 Exposure Mitigation Guidelines

Volunteers must:

- **Obtain a copy of the #1081 COVID-19 Waiver Participation Agreement for every participant (adult and youth) and retain with their health records**
- Follow proper COVID-19 exposure reporting procedures as outlined in this document

# Summer Camps

## Required Family efforts for 2022 Summer Camp Season

For the 2022 GSVSC Summer camp season, families must agree to the following:

- **Limit Contact**

Campers and all persons in the family household will need to limit contact with others outside of the family household and avoid all non-essential travel for 10 days prior to and throughout all session(s) of Girl Scout Summer Camp. Travel and outside contact limitations include but are not limited to other summer camps, sporting activities, family outings, family gatherings, vacations, etc. For essential travel, a face mask should always be worn, social distancing should be maintained, and thorough hand washing should be practiced.

- **Required Testing**

Campers will be required to be tested within 3 days prior to the first day at camp with continued limited contact outside of household and camp session(s). Only campers with a negative COVID-19 PCR test result will be permitted to attend camp. Parents/guardians must login to the camp registration site and upload a copy of the camper's COVID-19 negative test results for camp records and show results at the time of arrival on the first day of camp.

- **Camper Transportation**

Masks are to be worn by all persons during all travel to and from camp. Parents or guardians may be required to provide camper transportation to and from camp should we see a rise in COVID-19 cases. In this instance, camps would need to limit carpooling to the family household and/or within the camper's assigned camp unit. Parents or guardians would be notified prior to camp should this occur.

- **Assigned Check-in & Check-out**

Check-in and check-out times will be staggered, and campers will be assigned a set timeframe that must be adhered to for camper drop off and pick up.

- **Face Coverings**

Campers are to bring at least two new/newly washed masks per day of camp. Masks must fit snugly but comfortably against the sides of the face and be securable to the head. Reusable face coverings must be able to be washed/sanitized and dried without damage or change to shape. Masks are to adhere to CDC mask cleanliness guidelines. Masks will always be worn during transportation for drop off/pickup, when indoors, and any outdoor activities requiring campers to be within 3 feet.

- **Health Checks**

Campers will undergo daily health checks for any symptoms such as fever (or need for fever-reducing medications) and chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting during camp session(s). Camp medical staff will consider any health

information provided on the camper's health form that may produce similar symptoms.

- **COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposure Responsibilities**

Parents/Guardians must immediately inform the Camp Director and council if camper has been exposed, has a positive COVID-19 test result or develops any symptoms such as fever (or need for fever-reducing medications) and chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea prior to or anytime during camp session(s). Campers with COVID-19 symptoms or known exposure will be sent home to be assessed by a physician and required to submit a negative PCR test result before being allowed to return to camp. PCR test must be completed on day 3 after date of exposure or onset symptoms.

- **GSVSC Cancellation & Refund Policy**

Parents/Guardians must read and agree to the following Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council Summer Camp Cancellation/Refund policy: Virginia Skyline Council reserves the right to cancel or postpone summer camp program due to any unforeseen circumstances. In this event, the council will refund camper registration fees to each household. Campers who submit a written cancellation request to council 30 days prior to the start date of camp, will be issued a refund minus any processing fees or unrecoverable program expenses incurred by the organizer(s). Camper cancellations made less than 30 days before the start date of summer camp, will not receive a refund for any reason. Refunds will not be given to campers who have been deemed ineligible to attend camp due to a COVID-19 symptoms, exposure, or positive COVID-19 test result. Refunds will not be issued for fewer than \$5, after applicable refund processing fees. To maintain our summer camp COVID-19 mitigation strategies, we are unable to accommodate any mid-session changes. Summer camp financial assistance and scholarships are not transferable to other household members or campers. No substitutions of campers are allowed. By the registration close date, all camper accounts must be paid in full and required camp forms must be completed in entirety.

- **COVID-19 Nonrefundable Occurrences & CFAR Insurance**

Refunds will NOT be given if camper is deemed ineligible to attend or return to camp due to a COVID-19 symptoms, exposure, or positive COVID-19 test result. Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline suggests purchasing "Cancel for any Reason" (CFAR) insurance to avoid family hardships. Recommendations can be found on our summer camp council website: <https://www.gsvsc.org/en/camp/summer-camps.html>. Please note that Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council has no affiliation with these insurance programs and cannot take responsibility for submission of claims or issues that may result from the purchase of such insurance. It is the sole responsibility of the parent/guardian to review the "fine print" and purchase additional insurance based on their household's needs.

- **COVID-19 Impact to Family Plans**

A COVID-19 exposure requiring quarantine or positive COVID-19 test result requiring isolation may result in the cancellation of family vacations and all other family plans or activities directly following camp.

- **Alternate Summer Childcare Plans**

GSVSC Summer Camp COVID-19 guidelines are to ensure camp can proceed as planned. Should there be a mass exposure or outbreak of COVID-19, camp would have to close for all sessions and parents/guardians should have alternate summer childcare plans should this occur.

- **2022 Summer Camp COVID-19 Guidelines Subject to Change**

All GSVSC Summer Camp COVID-19 guidelines are subject to change as new information is released prior to the start of camp. Camp Directors will communicate any changes as they are implemented.

## **GSVSC Efforts for 2022 Summer camp season**

Our efforts include:

- Following guidance from the American Camp Association and Association of Camp Nurses
- Following guidelines from the CDC, Virginia Department of Health, state, and local authorities
- Implementing a communicable disease plan to mitigate the risk of infection to campers and staff entering the camp environment. The plan must include, but shall not be limited to:
  - Limit contact outside family household prior to and throughout the duration of camp
  - Proof of negative COVID-19 PCR test results within 3 days prior to the beginning of camp
  - Masks to be worn by all travelers during transportation for drop off/pickup and when indoors; exceptions include while sleeping overnight, showering, eating, or swimming. Campers are to bring at least two new/newly washed masks per day of camp
  - Proper ventilation - open windows, doors, turn on fans to keep air moving!
  - When indoors, observe 6 feet of distancing and masking when engaging in singing, cheering, exercise, or other physical activities involving increased exhalation.
  - Staggered check-in and check-out time with limited interactions between parents and camp personnel and other campers.
  - Organize campers into unit structures
    - During all camp sessions, campers will be organized into units by appropriate age-levels. Girls and staff will be assigned to one unit.
    - Units will limit interactions with other units. The campers will be in their assigned unit for the entirety of camp and will complete all camp program activities and meals together as a unit—while limiting interactions with other units
    - Each unit will have a designated space for indoor activities and inclement weather
  - Daily health checks for staff and campers
  - Frequent handwashing
  - Hand sanitizer/washing stations throughout camp
  - Disinfecting surfaces daily, before and after use
  - Eat meals outside, whenever possible



## Types of GSVSC Summer Camps

### Day camp

Camp for girls in kindergarten and up, with activities on three or more consecutive days for four hours or more, using council-approved sites. The occasional overnight camp may be offered.

### Twilight camp

Camp for girls in kindergarten and up, with activities on three or more consecutive evenings for four hours or more, using council-approved sites. The occasional overnight camp may be offered.

### Weekend camp

Camp for girls in kindergarten and up, and typically lasts for two-three days with one or two overnights, using council-approved sites. Weekend camps are planned and carried out by a group of girls and volunteers.

### Travel camping

Camp for experienced older girls and adult campers. The group travels from one site to another on foot or via motorized or non-motorized transportation over a period of three or more nights, staying at different campsites along the way.

### Resident camp

Camp for girls who have finished kindergarten. Girls camp for three to fourteen days and nights (the average is five nights), using council-approved sites. They plan activities with their counselors/volunteers, taking advantage of the resources available at the campsite.

## Cookie Booths

Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council's Safe Booth Guidelines and other cookie program-related information surrounding the pandemic were updated on April 1, 2022. We will update you through the eBudde system, the Girl Scout Connection, other communications, as well as [post the link here to these guidelines](#).

## Food & Drink Service Guidelines

**Food Service, Dining and Snacks.** Be careful when handling and serving food and have girls be careful with each other when eating. Safety recommendations include the following for:

### Snacks, Meals, & Drinks:

- Given very low risk of transmission from food, food packaging, surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service operations to single use items and packaged meals

- Potluck-style meals for ceremonies, events, programs, meetings, etc., are permissible as long as all “Food Service” guidelines are followed as outlined below

### **Food Preparation:**

- Anyone preparing food or drinks must wear a mask; recommend assigned workstations to avoid cross contamination
- Ensure everyone preparing food washes their hands and follows the CDC handwashing guidelines. Volunteers and girls should wash hands and prep surfaces frequently to avoid cross contamination of food. For control of Covid-19 during food preparation, gloves are not needed; washing hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds will suffice for this purpose
- Volunteers and girls must wash hands before switching tasks or handling different foods, and after touching potentially contaminated objects (for example, cell phone, computer keyboard, mouse, door handles) or if accidentally touching face or after coughing or sneezing into a tissue,
- If sharing cooking utensils (or roasting forks) sanitized between each use or bring enough so that each person gets their own

### **Food Service:**

- ServSafe training may be required when providing food service or selling food items as part of money-earning activities. When food needs to be held at either a hot or cold temperature, as opposed to baked goods, volunteers and girls are to contact their local health department for guidance and training within their local jurisdiction
- Ensure everyone handling food, those serving girls and adults, wash their hands (even though they will be wearing gloves), following [CDC handwashing guidelines](#)
- **Use a buffet line only if staffed with safely protected servers with masks and gloves, who serve everyone food on clean plates, drinks in clean cups, and use serving utensils.** Even when wearing gloves and a mask, the server must always use a serving spoon or scoop rather than reaching into a bag or bowl of snacks
- Use disposable plates, forks, napkins or a reusable mess kit that can be washed and sanitized properly
- If food service is being provided as a money-earning activity, provide individually packaged food (i.e. hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, sandwiches, cupcakes, cookies, etc.) instead of a self-serve potluck, buffet, or family-style meals. Always avoid sharing food, drinks, and utensils
- For money-earning activities, recommend providing curbside pickup of meals or contactless delivery of meals ( i.e., front porch drop off) to minimize contact with the public

### **Eating/Dining:**

- Eating meals indoors is permitted; recommend increasing ventilation by using fans and/or opening windows and doors
- Mess kits and/or eating utensils should be washed and sanitized between each use or bring enough plate, cups, bowls, and utensils so that each person gets their own
- Recommend eating outdoors in well-ventilated areas whenever possible
- Public dining is permitted

## Safe Dishwashing While Camping:

The steps in dishwashing are covered in Outdoor Education training and it is very important to complete the third step of sanitizing with liquid bleach

### Supplies:

- 3 tubs/dishpans appropriate for the size of your dishes and placed 6 feet apart
- Liquid dishwashing detergent
- Hot water
- Liquid chlorine bleach
- Scrub brush, scraper
- Gloves (recommended when washing shared cooking ware and for sanitizing)
- Goop can
- Trash bag

### Process:

- Scrape all dishes into trash bag
- Polish with paper towel until dishes “look” clean
- Tub One: **Wash** in warm, soapy water (Very little soap needed in small wash bins.)
- Tub Two: **Rinse** in hot, clear water. (Hot is relative to what girls can handle!)
- Tub Three: **Sanitize** using 1 tablespoon of liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of tepid water
- Place clean dishes in drip bag
- Hang on drip line to dry
- Remember to strain dishwater in a goop can when emptying dish tubs to capture any food items. Dispose of goop can contents in the trash bag.

**Best Practice:** Renew bleach after washing four (4) sets of dishes. For shared cookware, use a newly prepared Tub Three, the bleach tub.

## First Aid Supplies

Troop first aid supplies should include COVID-19 prevention items including hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol), wipes, tissues, disposable facemasks, and disinfectants.

## First Aid/CPR Certifications

Keep First Aid/CPR Training skills up to date for any emergency. Every troop or group should have at least one First Aid/CPR trained adult in Pediatric and Adult First Aid, CPR, and AED training.

You can take advantage of first-aid/CPR training offered by chapters of the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, National Safety Council, EMP America, American Safety & Health

Institute, Medic First Aid or SOLO (Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities) or other sponsoring organizations approved by council.

**Caution:** First-aid/CPR training that is available solely online does not satisfy Girl Scouts' requirements. Such courses do not offer enough opportunities to practice and receive feedback on your technique. If you're taking a course not offered by one of the organizations listed in the previous paragraph, or any course that has online components, get approval from council prior to enrolling in the course.

**Note:** The presence of an advanced first-aider is required at resident camps. For large events—200 people or more—there should be, in addition to the general first aider(s) per troop/group, one advanced first-aider for every 200 participants. The following healthcare providers may also serve as advanced first-aiders for large groups: physician; physician's assistant; nurse practitioner; registered nurse; licensed practical nurse; paramedic; military medic; and emergency medical technician.

## Disinfecting Guidelines

Use a household cleaner or see the [Environmental Protection Agency's list of effective cleaners approved for use against COVID-19](#). Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products.

Girl Scouts are to supplement public facility cleaning practices when practical. After meetings, allow time to sanitize and wipe down touch surfaces to leave the meeting space better than you found it.

Routinely clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched/hard surfaces (tabletops, chairs, equipment, reusable program supplies, etc.) Avoid the use of shared materials such as markers, scissors, etc. by having each girl provide her own box of items. This box can be carried to and from the meeting by the individual girl. If collected and stored in one location, each box should be wiped down with sanitizing wipe before being stored and before being reused. Sanitize each item before and after, if equipment or supplies must be shared.

## Managing COVID-19 Symptoms at Girl Scout Meeting/Event

Isolate and transport those who are sick. In the event a participant (adult or child) begins to exhibit COVID-19 symptoms (or later tests positive for COVID-19, or later realizes exposure to someone with symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case), instruct participants to notify the designated volunteer COVID-19 point of contact for that activity.

- Immediately separate participant(s) with COVID-19 symptoms (such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath). Individuals who are sick should be cared for following [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) guidance for caring for yourself or others who are sick](#).

- Work with volunteers or staff to identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms. The First Aider should use **Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions** when caring for sick people.
- If a person becomes sick and needs to be transported, establish procedures for safely transporting them. If calling an ambulance or bringing someone to a healthcare facility, try to call first to alert them that the person may have COVID-19.
- **Clean and disinfect.** If there has been a sick person or someone who tested positive for COVID-19 in your facility within the last 24 hours, wait as long as possible (at least several hours) before you clean and disinfect.

#### Before cleaning and disinfecting

- Close off areas used by the person who is sick and do not use those areas until after cleaning and disinfecting.
- Wait as long as possible (at least several hours) before you clean and disinfect.
  - If less than 24 hours have passed since the person who is sick or diagnosed with COVID-19 has been in the space, clean and disinfect the space.
  - If more than 24 hours have passed since the person who is sick or diagnosed with COVID-19 has been in the space, cleaning is enough. You may choose to also disinfect depending on **certain conditions** or everyday practices required by your facility.
  - If more than 3 days have passed since the person who is sick or diagnosed with COVID-19 has been in the space, no additional cleaning (beyond regular cleaning practices) is needed.

#### While cleaning and disinfecting

- Open doors and windows and use fans or HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) settings to **increase air circulation in the area.**
- Use products from **EPA List N** according to the instructions on the product label.
- **Wear a mask** and **gloves** while cleaning and disinfecting.
- Focus on the immediate areas occupied by the person who is sick or diagnosed with COVID-19 unless they have already been cleaned and disinfected.
- **Vacuum the space if needed.** Use a vacuum equipped with a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter and bags, if available.
- It is safe to wash dirty laundry from a person who is sick with COVID-19 with other people's items, if needed.
- Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfectant products, including storing such products securely and using PPE needed for the cleaning and disinfection products.
- Advise sick individuals of home Isolation criteria. Sick members or participants should not return to Girl Scouts until they have met CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation.
- Gather COVID-19 forms and health forms. Document what happened using the Incident Report (#1089) and submit to the council at [CEO@gsvsc.org](mailto:CEO@gsvsc.org).

- Promptly notify the volunteer or staff in charge of the troop, group, service unit, or council-sponsored activity. Once the person has been safely isolated and/or transported, promptly contact the council during regular business hours at 540-777-5100 or contact the council emergency number after hours: 540-598-0974. Refer to the "[Reporting a COVID-19 Positive Test or Known Exposure](#)" section.
- Council staff may require documentation from volunteers in charge of activity and advise those who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to separate themselves, self-monitor for symptoms, and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.

## Reporting a COVID-19 Positive Test or Known Exposure

Now that the VDH has refocused its contact tracing efforts, volunteers are able to handle reports of COVID-19 positive tests or known exposures.

In the event of a COVID-19 positive test result or known exposure to someone who has tested positive to COVID-19, **volunteers should contact the parents/guardians of troop or group members to notify them of an exposure or positive test result for their need to get tested or quarantine/isolate:**

- Keep girl, volunteer, and staff health information private and strictly confidential
- Volunteers will be responsible for taking the necessary steps to correctly handle the situation
  - Confirm and trace the positive tester or known exposures
  - Notify volunteers or parents of anyone who may have been exposed or impacted by a positive test result, without identifying the positive tester or disclosing private health information
  - Recommend they follow CDC Guidelines on "[What to Do If You Are Sick](#)" and "[Know when to quarantine or isolate](#)"
  - Notify the facility of where a troop or group has met
- Volunteers responsible for the troop, group, or service unit gathering, where participants had a known exposure to COVID-19 may be asked to submit copies of the following documents to council:
  - Participant health forms
  - Copy of #1081 COVID-19 Waiver Participation Agreement
- For assistance, contact a GSVSC council staff member in this situation at **540-777-5100** or contact the council emergency number after hours at **540-598-0974**

## Records Retention

Girl Scouts is not a covered entity under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). However, Girl Scouts takes the privacy and protection of our members' data very seriously and does manage personal identifiable information (PII), personal health information (PHI) and other confidential information. Therefore, Girl Scouts does not retain personal data any longer than necessary and does not share personal data beyond a strict "need to know" basis.

- With respect to the [#1081 COVID-19 Waiver Participation Agreement](#), the form should be submitted and saved for the duration of the membership year with health records. After the conclusion of the membership year, forms can then be disposed of/shredded. Obtain new form for new membership year
- If exposure or positive testing has been reported, then follow council "[Reporting a COVID-19 Positive Test or Known Exposure Guidelines](#)" and submit all required forms to council

## Vaccination FAQ

### **Now that all adults are permitted to receive the COVID-19 vaccination in Virginia, are volunteers required to be vaccinated before they can meet in person with girls?**

Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) and GSVSC strongly encourages, but does not require vaccination or boosters for volunteers. State laws and policies may vary from council to council. As of now, the COVID-19 vaccines are not mandatory for Virginians, and there are no legal penalties for refusing it. The decision to vaccinate is a personal decision individual adults must make for themselves. However, we reserve the right to limit or exclude participation based on vaccination status for activities that may pose a higher risk.

### **Can parents/caregivers ask about the vaccination status of volunteers?**

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 girl with anyone.

### **Can parents/caregivers or volunteers ask about the vaccination status of council staff and camp staff?**

While parents/caregivers may certainly ask and [GSVSC] strongly encourages all council staff members and camp staff to be vaccinated and boosted, council staff or volunteers are under no obligation to disclose their personal vaccination status. Under no circumstances should one staff member discuss the personal healthcare decisions of another staff member with anyone. However, a council may disclose whether it has strongly recommended COVID-19 vaccinations for its staff.

### **Can parents/caregivers ask other parents/caregivers about the vaccination status of girls in the troop?**

Parents/caregivers are certainly free to discuss vaccinations with other parents/caregivers when both parties are open to that conversation. However, parents/caregivers should not feel obligated to share personal medical information if they choose to maintain their privacy in the matter. [GSVSC] encourages parents/caregivers to respect the privacy of the girls and other adults in their girl's troop or group.

### **Once vaccinations for children are available, can councils or troop leaders require girls to be vaccinated before they attend in-person activities?**

Councils are encouraged to stay abreast of state regulations and the protocols that are practiced in public schools and use that information to inform their policies. As of now, the COVID-19 vaccines may not be

mandatory for Virginians, and there are no legal penalties for refusing it, but the Virginia Department of Health is urging individuals to be vaccinated and boosted. Vaccines are an important tool to help stop the COVID-19 pandemic. Girl Scouts cannot require families, girls or volunteers to vaccinate. The decision to vaccinate is a personal decision volunteers and families must make for their girls and individual adults must make for themselves. However, we reserve the right to limit or exclude participation based on vaccination status for activities that pose a higher risk.

**Once someone is vaccinated, do they have to continue to practice the safety protocols as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), such as social distancing, washing their hands frequently, and wearing a mask?**

As directed by GSUSA, GSVSC will continue to practice and expect all members to follow the GSVSC COVID-19 guidelines *when and where required*.

## Additional Girl Scout Resources

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Virginia Department of Health](#)

[How to Talk to Your Girl About Coronavirus](#)

[GSVSC COVID-19 Fund Guidelines for 2021 Young Alums and 2022 Graduating Seniors](#)

[gsZoom Survey](#)

**Do NOT create your own versions or redo this piece.** Contact Council at [info@gsvsc.org](mailto:info@gsvsc.org) if you need assistance. Please USE this GSVSC created COVID-19 Waiver Participation Agreement.

[#1081 COVID-19 Waiver Participation Agreement](#)

## Questions/Need Assistance

If you have questions or need further assistance, please reach out to us at [info@gsvsc.org](mailto:info@gsvsc.org) or 540-777-5100. If you have an emergency after hours, then please call the emergency number at 1-540-598-0974. Your call will be answered by a GSVSC staff member.