



Amusement Parks

Includes:

- Large theme parks
- Smaller amusement-type parks/Free-standing rides
- Carnivals / County Fairs
- Waterparks or facilities (more than a swimming pool)
- Themed adventure parks
- Controlled go-kart activities

Activity Permitted for: D B J C S A

Council Approval: Required as per Council Policy P1;
[Activity/Trip Permission \(2129\)](#)

Vendor Approval: Required for parks without state oversight.

Required Training: 281 GS 201 Trips & Overnights (gsLearn)

About Amusement Parks

Adventure parks take a wide variety of forms depending on where they are geographically located and the audience they are geared toward. These parks are commercially operated enterprises that offer rides, games, activities, and other forms of entertainment. To ensure a safe park experience, it is important to look at the various activities individually to ensure safety and compliance with Girl Scouts' Safety Activity Checkpoints. For example, some locations may have activities that are not permissible Girl Scout activities, such as bungee jumping. Be sure to identify these prior to making final plans and communicate with girls and adults which activities may be restricted because of age, height, and weight. Also, discuss ride and crowd safety, have a designated meeting space, and encourage girls to act responsibly.

Currently 44 of 50 states regulate amusement parks. The six without state oversight are Alabama, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, Wyoming, and Utah. These states contain few, if any, amusement parks. (Wyoming has no parks.)

Learn More

- [Saferparks Database](#)
- [Guide to U.S. Theme Parks](#)
- [International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions](#)

Amusement and other types of adventure parks, as listed above, can be found in most states.

Include Girl Scout Members with Disabilities

Talk to Girl Scout members with disabilities and their caregivers. Ask about needs and accommodations. Always be sure to contact the location and/or the instructor in advance to ensure they are able to accommodate those with disabilities.

Equity. In addition to physical and social-emotional disabilities, consider the history, culture, and past experiences of the Girl Scout members in your troop that could affect their ability to equally participate in an activity. Work with members and families to understand how an activity is perceived. Ensure that all Girl Scout members and their families feel comfortable and have access to whatever is needed to fully participate, such as proper equipment, prior experiences, and the skills needed to enjoy the activity.

Infectious Disease Guidelines. Girl Scouts use a commonsense approach to health and safety. Before participating in Girl Scouting activities, members are to undergo health checks at home for any symptoms such as fever of 100.4 (or need for fever-reducing medications) 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, stomach aches, nausea, or vomiting. Members with any of these symptoms or in need of fever-reducing medication **MUST** stay home until fully recovered.

Emergency Action Plan (EAP). Review and document your Emergency Action Plan (EAP) before taking girls out for any activity and review it with the girls so they too are prepared. Think through scenarios of what can go wrong such as an accident, physical injury to a girl, missing girl, sudden illness, or sudden weather or water emergencies.

Amusement Park Checkpoints

Vendor Approval Required for sites without state oversight. Review Vendor Approval section under the *Standard Safety Guidelines for vendor approval timelines*.

Connect with your Girl Scout council for approved sites or site suggestions to ensure the location is vetted. If it is not, allow enough time to have the location approved. [See High Adventure Approved Vendors List \(#2147\)](#).

Required Training: Troop/Group Program leaders must complete GSUSA's online leadership courses and GSVSC's 281 GS 201 Trips & Overnights course in gsLearn. Adult volunteer chaperones must complete GSVSC's 281 GS 104 Orientation for Support Volunteers online course in gsLearn.

Inquire about adequate insurance. The park you attend may or may not be able or willing to provide evidence of one million dollars general liability insurance and instructor certifications upon request (depending on the size of the group). It is best to at least inquire and have the conversation in order to verify credibility of the park's management. For sites requiring vendor approval, the council will request a certificate of insurance to document evidence of insurance coverage and name the council as additional insured. Most facilities will accommodate this request if they are able to administratively.

Ensure safety of theme park rides. Obtain full information about the rides and other activities and evaluate them for safety with a special focus on the age, height, and weight levels of girls. Volunteers are responsible for notifying the council immediately should the site or rides not meet safety standards.

Follow [Swimming Safety Activity Checkpoints](#). Pay particular attention to water park safety rules. Ensure there are certified lifeguards at each activity. Girls will need to complete a [swim test](#) prior to the trip to ensure they can swim.

Know where girls are at all times. Keep track of girls' whereabouts. Conduct a head count before and after activities. Ensure girls know where to go and how to act when confronted by strangers.

Review plans upon arrival. Adults should obtain a copy of the park guide to facilitate the visit and gain important information on park policies, as well as the location of restrooms and the first aid station. Plan the rides or events to attend with predetermined groups.

Determine a meeting spot beforehand. Adults should discuss plans for the visit with girls and set a place to meet (home base spot) for girls to go if they get separated from the group.

Verify first aid particulars. Know where the first aid station is located. Ensure the presence of a first aid kit and a first aider (with a current certificate in first aid, including adult and child/pediatric CPR/AED) who is prepared to handle cases of abrasions, sprains, and fractures.