



GSSC-MM Current Troop Meeting Guidelines
Effective September 10, 2020 until further notice.

This guidance is being provided as of the effective date above. GSSC-MM may modify this guidance, from time to time as circumstances change.

COVID-19 is an extremely contagious virus that spreads easily in the community. Take all reasonable precautions to limit potential exposure for girls, volunteers, and families. And please remember, in person troop meetings are not required. Each troop/family should weigh their participation based on their own health concerns.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to change as infection rates rise and fall in different areas. There may be regional differences or developments since this guidance was published. Continue to follow local and [national](#) directives. Discuss plans with families.

The current suggested maximum troop meeting size is **fifteen people*** (twelve girls and 3 adult volunteers (2 of which are unrelated) for Daisy Troop Meetings. Thirteen girls and two* unrelated adult volunteers for all other levels. However, [check your local restrictions](#) for small gatherings. If more restrictive, follow the local restriction. Restrictions vary greatly from state to state, county to county, and even from town to town--and frequently change. If a state allows more than ten to gather, utilize all social distancing practices and follow all preventative guidance (such as face coverings).

For troop participation in Service Unit gatherings or events (social distancing guidelines still apply), a maximum of **50** people may be at an in-person, indoor gathering and **100** at in-person, outdoor gathering. All activity group sizes at gatherings or events must follow current troop meeting guidelines of 15 total people or less per group. The activity group must remain together throughout the event, not mixing with other groups.

NOTE: Individual communities in South Carolina may establish stricter requirements. If that is the case in your community, you must adapt these guidelines to meet those requirements.

General Guidelines	What this means for Girl Scouts in GSSC-MM
<p>Maintain at least six-foot distance from other individuals. NO PHYSICAL CONTACT.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Troops may meet using social distancing. Outdoor meeting locations are preferred over indoor space. • Larger troops may break into smaller groups with each group meeting at the same time. Girl/adult ratios must be followed in each individual group. Girls in the groups must remain static. Do not move girls from one group to another during the meeting or from one week to the next. Adults could move from one group to another (face covering must be worn). Groups must stay 30 feet apart from each other. • Adults should meet the girls at a designated drop off location where parents can simply drive up and drop-off/pick-up their Girl Scout. This ensures that larger groups are not gathering to wait for troop participants. • Parents dropping off girls should have face coverings available in case they need to interact closely with a leader. • Mark off distances on the ground or arrange chairs to support social distancing. • Adults are responsible for monitoring all social distancing guidelines. • Hugs, handshakes, high fives and even Girl Scout traditions, such as Friendship Circles, must be adapted to allow for social distancing or not done. • Games/activities need to be chosen to ensure physical contact is not happening.

<p>Wear face coverings in the presence of others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face coverings must be worn even when adhering to the 6-foot distance to reduce the risk of spreading/contracting the virus. • NOTE: You might have a virtual meeting prior to meeting in person where girls make their own face covering from bandanas to bring to the meeting.
<p>Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible or use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Methanol is not an acceptable ingredient for hand sanitizers and should not be used due to its toxic effects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have hand washing/sanitizing supplies available. • Wash or sanitize hands upon arrival, throughout (at least every 30 minutes), after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing and just before leaving.
<p>Cover coughs or sneezes into a tissue, the sleeve or elbow, not hands.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remind troop members of appropriate process. • If not followed, ensure participant sanitizes hands and any surfaces coughed/sneezed on are cleaned.
<p>Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash hands if you do touch.
<p>Temperature check prior to meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers, girls and parents should be reminded to make sure temperatures are taken prior to group interaction to confirm the individual is not running a fever and temperature is a normal 98.6 degrees. Members with fever or temperature higher than 98.6 should skip the in-person gathering until their temperature is normal.
<p>Regularly clean high-touch surface</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify areas at your meeting location that will need to be cleaned and sanitized before the meeting begins and after each person touches it—door handles, handle of toilet, faucets, tables, etc. It is important these surfaces are wiped down prior to use and after each participant touches it. Encourage everyone to use toilet paper or paper towels to open doors, latches/locks, flush toilets and turn on and off faucets. • Use a household cleaner, or see the EPA's list of effective cleaners approved for use against COVID-19. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning. • Minimize the use of shared materials such as markers, crayons, scissors, etc. by having each girl provide her own box of identified 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 stored.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there are shared items, sanitize after each individual person uses the item.
Water fountains must stay closed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure each participant brings her/his own filled-water bottle.
Additional Guidelines from GSSC-MM based on GSUSA guidance.	
Meeting Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At this time, we highly recommend meetings take place outdoors. • GSUSA strongly suggests no meetings in the home out of concern that there would be greater risk of exposure to other family members. • For meetings held in public areas, volunteers must ensure the space is clean and touch surfaces (i.e., tabletops, chairs, etc.) have been sanitized. • FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY: If an indoor space is available in case inclement weather should approach, that space must be large enough to adhere to social distancing guidelines. • If you know storms are forecasted, cancellation of the meeting is preferred. • Ensure there is at least 30 feet of distance between your troop and any other group that may be meeting in the area. • If meeting in the same outdoor space as another troop, the groups must remain static, no mixing of the girls from the two troops.
Length of Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may want to keep meetings relatively short to limit the number of bathroom trips. Many public bathrooms, such as parks, are currently not open.
Screenings—self evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents should ensure their child does not have a temperature or feel ill prior to coming to the troop meeting and have none of the following symptoms of COVID-19: fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle

	<p>pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, feeling feverish as well as acute gastrointestinal problems, such as nausea, diarrhea, and vomiting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Troop members who are ill, living with someone who is ill, or showing symptoms, or in a high-risk category should not participate in troop meetings. • Parents must determine the risks of allowing their child to attend troop meetings and determine if now is the time for their child to resume in-person Girl Scouting.
<p>Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is strongly recommended to adopt a zero-transportation policy (no carpooling girls) until the county, town or region is safely past its final phase of re-opening. Until then, individual parents drop off and pick up their own girls from meetings. • Once a county or region is fully past its final re-opening stage, carpooling may resume as necessary with precautions. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls and adults should wear masks when inside of a motor vehicle. • Keep car window opened, at least slightly, to circulate fresh air. • Consider the personal situation of your girls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do they live with an immune compromised person that they can put at risk? If so, perhaps make other accommodations for her with her parents. ○ Have the families been isolating, and free from contagion? If so the troop may essentially be a safe bubble. • Remember, sustained contact within less than six (6) feet for longer than ten (10) minutes within an enclosed area creates high risk for virus transmission, so be very careful with carpool decisions. • CDC guidance for ride shares and drivers for hire may be helpful as an additional reference when evaluating motor vehicle transportation or car-pooling: Ride Shares and Drivers for Hire • Adults should meet the girls at a designated drop off location where parents can simply drive up and drop-off/pick-up their Girl Scout. This ensures that larger groups are not gathering to wait for troop participants.

	<p>Parents should have face coverings available in case they need to interact closely with a leader.</p>
<p>Travel and overnight stays</p>	<p>Overnight trips are not permitted until after the home state, county, town or region is successfully past its final phase of re-opening. The timeframes for final phase of re-opening will vary from state to state and even from county to county in some cases. As always, volunteers must seek council prior approval before planning any overnight stays, follow guidance in Safety Activity Checkpoints and continue to practice the Hygiene and COVID19 Risk Mitigation guidance outlined in this document for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>Once your jurisdiction successfully passes its final phase of re-opening, or permits overnight travel to certain destinations, proceed to cautiously to integrate overnight travel back into Girl Scout programs. Recognize that the COVID-19 risk is fluid, it can and will change and contingencies for re-scheduling or pivoting to virtual should always be considered.</p> <p>For all travel, use all health and safety guidance available to ensure the safety of girls and adults.</p>
<p>Day trips and activities</p>	<p>Follow the same guidance as those listed here for Troop Meetings and Hygiene and COVID-19 Risk Mitigation. Call ahead to the facility or vendor to confirm that they are following CDC and state health department guidelines.</p>
<p>Food, Dining and Snacks. Be careful when handling and serving food and have girls be careful with each other when eating. Safety recommendations for food, dining and snacks include:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage girls to bring their own foods to eat (snacks, bag lunch or dinner) • Encourage girls not to share their food after having touched it, such as a bag of chips. • Individually wrapped items are recommended. • If providing snacks, especially if unwrapped, have one person, wearing gloves, hand out items to each person, such as with cupcakes or cookies. • Use a serving spoon or scoop rather than reaching into a bag or bowl of snacks. • Use a buffet line only if staffed with a safely protected server with mask and gloves. • Avoid “serve yourself” buffets. - Public dining only as permitted in your local jurisdiction. • If serving family style, have one person, wearing clean gloves, serve everyone on clean plates • Use disposable plates, forks, napkins, etc. when possible.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage girls to bring foods they can easily cook themselves (a prepacked foil pack) or hotdog for outdoor cooking. • Ensure everyone handling food, those serving, girls, adults, wash hands (even if they will be wearing gloves) prior to any food prep or meals, following CDC handwashing guidelines. • If sharing outdoor cooking utensils (roasting forks), they should be washed and sanitized between each use or bring enough utensils so that each person gets their own. • Continue recommendation for 6 foot spacing during mealtimes.
<p>Reporting and communicating a positive COVID 19 test after interaction with the troop.</p>	<p>In the event of a COVID-19 positive test result, do NOT contact the parents or troop members. Promptly contact your council in this situation. A council staff member and NOT volunteers, will be responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirming and tracing the positive tester, • Contacting the parents of anyone who may have been exposed (or other volunteers), • Notifying a facility or homeowner where a troop has met, and • Alerting the state department of health. <p>Let other volunteers know that council staff, NOT volunteers, will notify parents and others about a positive test result and that the tester’s identity is confidential. Remember that girl and volunteer health information is private and strictly confidential and should be only shared on a need to know basis with a council staff member.</p>