

Navigating COVID-19 Guidelines with Girl Scout Activities

To ensure the safety of all participants, it is critical that all safety guidelines be followed and that organizers of Girl Scout activities take responsibility for ensuring their activities are aligned with all relevant safety standards. Before holding a troop meeting or other Girl Scout activity, [identify your county's current level](#) and be sure to check for guidance from three different levels:

1. [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's COVID-19 guidelines](#)
2. Your local county's COVID-19 guidelines
3. The hosting location or business's guidelines

Checking with these three resources will ensure you are within capacity limits for the location and ensure you follow all safety guidelines associated with the location or activity.

Please note: Girl Scouts of Colorado staff cannot determine if meeting locations or activities meet state, local, or business COVID-19 safety requirements. This resource is intended to be a jumping off point for your own research into required safety standards.

What guidelines do I need to follow for my troop meetings and activities?

Regularly Scheduled Troop Meetings

Where your regular troop meetings are being held informs which guidance category you should research. See examples of common meeting locations in the table below. The links included direct to guidance from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), but you should be sure to check with your local county and the meeting location too. Sometimes locations can fall under multiple guidance categories based on the activity being hosted which is

Troop Meeting Location	Possible Guidance Category
Personal residence (private home) both inside and outside	Definite category: Personal gatherings
Public indoor space such as a library, community center, or neighborhood clubhouse	Indoor events
Recreation center	Personal recreation
Park or playground	Personal recreation Outdoor event
Outdoor space that is not a park or playground	Outdoor events
School	Education K-12 <i>Check with the school for their current requirements</i>
Place of worship	Places of Worship <i>Check with the place of worship for their current requirements</i>

Please note: The links included direct to guidance from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), but you should be sure to check with your local county as well.

Other Common Girl Scout Activities

Girl Scout activities outside of regularly scheduled troop meetings fall into different guidance categories depending on what the activity is and where it is taking place. See examples of common activities troops do outside of their regular meetings and the associated guidance category in the table below. Be sure to check guidance at your local county level as well.

Troop Activity Example	Possible Guidance Category
Outdoor recreation activities such as hiking, fishing, kayaking, and canoeing	Outdoor recreation
Indoor recreation such as skating or bowling	Personal recreation
Swimming	Personal recreation
Outdoor volunteer projects	Personal recreation
Attending or participating in a parade	Outdoor events
Service Unit event such as a carnival or end of year party	Indoor events or Outdoor events depending on location

Please note: The links included direct to guidance from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), but you should be sure to check with your local county as well.

If your troop is planning a field trip, you should always check with the location or business before you go to ensure you are within capacity limits for that location and ensure you follow all safety guidelines associated with that business or activity.

Don't see your activity listed? Check out the Guidance by Sector page on the state of Colorado's COVID website at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/guidance-by-sector> to see if you can find your activity listed.

What about overnights? At this time overnights are still prohibited. This is based on guidance from both Girl Scouts of the USA and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Connecting with Your Local County or Hosting Location

When connecting with your local county or the location where you are meeting or which is hosting your activity you can use the following suggested talking points and questions to guide your meeting decisions. Be prepared to document who you spoke with from the county or location.

- Be prepared to speak to what activity you are interested in hosting at the location along with how many people would be involved.
- Ask: What capacity limits are in place for the location or activity?
 - Does the location have a limit on the number of households within a party?
- Ask: Do I need to bring any cleaning supplies or other supplies like hand sanitizer?
- If trying to meet at a restaurant or similar business ask: Does this location require a minimum purchase to meet there?

Don't Forget Safety Activity Checkpoints!

Be sure to consult [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) before any Girl Scout activity to ensure you are following all other non-COVID related safety guidelines. Some activities require troops to complete an [Activity Approval form](#). Additional information on the Activity Approval form can be found on the [GSCO blog](#).

Concerned About Transitioning Back to In-Person?

As we navigate this transition to meeting in-person safely, you may find there are members of your troop or Girl Scout community who are still uncomfortable participating in-person. Girl Scouts can feel uncomfortable returning to in-person activities for many reasons and we want to create an inclusive environment for concerned families. Facilitate a discussion with the families in your troop or group before transitioning back to in-person activities to gauge comfort and to plan for this transition.

When planning out the rest of your Girl Scout year consider which of the following meeting formats works for you: fully online, fully in-person, or a hybrid approach combining both in-person and online activities. Consider continuing to host events and meetings virtually to accommodate those who feel uncomfortable returning to in-person activities right away.

Looking for tips on how to structure your virtual meetings or want to find out more about adapting current Girl Scout activities? Find more information on our [Forms and Resources page](#).