

# Change Memo: Safety Activity Checkpoints 2025-2026

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This memo outlines updates to the 2025-2026 Safety Activity Checkpoints (SAC). Below is a breakdown of the significant updates made to SAC along with the general updates specifically focused on inclusive language. However, we advise that you review the sections in their entirety for all details.

## 2025-2026 Safety Activity Checkpoints

Safety Activity Checkpoints provides the standard safety guidelines for GSUSA and council approved activities. In addition to providing volunteers with safety guidelines to ensure the physical and emotional safety of girls, information is also included throughout SACs to ensure equity, diversity, and inclusive thinking when planning Girl Scout activities so everyone with a desire to participate is included.

### Safety Activity Checkpoints Updates

The following items detail the significant updates:

- **Adult Supervision (p.6).** Updated Volunteer to Youth ratios to include all youth present at Girl Scout activities.
- **Council Required Trainings (p.7).** Trainings updated to reflect new names and add links.
- **COVID-19 (p.8).** Specific language related to Covid was removed and replaced with generalized information on infection disease.
- **Activity Accident Insurance (p.11).** Updated to reflect the changes GSUSA made to activity accident insurance and future changes coming in October 2025.
- **Air quality (p. 12).** In addition to monitoring weather, air quality was added.
- **Permission Slips for Day Trips and Activities (p.13).** Updated to reflect that the Caregiver Permission Form for Girl Scout Activities needs to be signed and collected for any activities outside of the normal troop meeting space and time.
- **Overnights Approval (p.13, 36, 218).** Updates to when approvals are required for overnights. All overnights will require approval beginning October 1, 2025.
- **Overnights (p.13).** Updated to reflect the State of Colorado's requirements for gender-segregated facilities.
- **Ensuring Compliance with Local Laws and Regulations (p.13).** In addition to complying with the rules and regulations outlined in SAC, volunteers should take the time necessary to ensure you understand and are complying with the local laws applicable where you will be.
- **Drugs and Alcohol (p.14).** Updated to include recreational drugs and substances.
- **Weather (p.46,53,102).** Increased weather guidance was added for backpacking, camping, and hiking.
- **Aquatic Inflatables (p.115).** Approval required for aquatic inflatables.
- **Outdoor Cooking (p.124).** Approval required to ensure outdoor cooking training has been taken.
- **International Travel (p.221).** Additional information on Certificate of Insurance and The State Department's travel advisory levels permitted.
- **Paddling (p.130 and various).** Significant updates including clarity on experts required for paddling sports.
- **Swimming and Swim Assessments (p.195).** Significant changes that apply to most aquatic activities.
- **Equity and Inclusion.** Expanded the inclusion section in the introduction as well as updates to the equity section of some checkpoints to enhance diversity and inclusive thinking when planning Girl Scout activities.

- **Various updates** for clarity and relevance throughout the document

