

Frequently Asked Questions about In-Person Meetings & Troop Trips/Activities for Volunteers

Thank you for reviewing the returning to In-Person Troop Meetings - Interim COVID-19 Guidance for volunteers that went into effect on March 19th, 2021. Below you will find answers to some of the questions you may have.

Who is making the decisions for Girl Scouts of Greater New York regarding restrictions due to Covid-19?

In February 2020, a Girl Scouts of Greater New York Response Team was formed with executive leadership staff members from several areas of the council. The team was assigned to review and monitor the health crisis to determine what would be necessary to ensure the health and safety of the membership including girls, volunteers, and staff. The Girl Scouts of Greater New York Response Team reviewed recommendations from many sources including local and state health departments, CDC and American Camp Association to develop and update GSGNY Guidelines as needed. We will continue to do so in the coming months.

How was the Outdoor Troop Meeting group size determined?

It was determined that smaller group sizes ensure that all safety measures including wearing a mask and social distancing can be monitored and guaranteed by the adults present.

What are we supposed to do with a larger troop that would like to meet?

For larger troops we suggest two options:

- Opt to hold two smaller meetings one after the other spaced by 15 to 30 minutes apart to allow for pick up and drop off of girls.
- Or recruit a fourth adult to participate and hold two meetings concurrently in the same park (outdoor area) but in separate areas.

Can there be an exception made if we add additional adults?

Unfortunately, an exception cannot be made as we must stick to the GSGNY Guidelines that have been set. We do still strongly suggest meeting online if you all want to participate at the same time.

Why are we unable to meet in a backyard?

GSUSA strongly suggests no meetings in the home out of concern that there would be greater risk of exposure to other family members. GSGNY determined bringing people to a backyard or front yard would present the same concern.

Can adult groups meet if they follow the same guidelines?

These guidelines were developed to allow girls to engage with their troop mates and adult leaders. Adult volunteers and staff should continue to meet virtually at this time. All council level meetings will continue to be virtual.

When can we hold Girl Scouts troop meetings?

At this time, as a council we encourage leaders to host Girl Scouts virtual troop meetings. If you and your leaders decide to meet in-person, outdoor and indoor meeting spaces that provide enough space to maintain social distancing can be permitted for meetings. Please receive permission from the property owner or the jurisdiction that provides the location. Meeting in private backyards is prohibited. Troops and Service Units need to maintain an [Attendee Log](#) for all Girl Scouts meetings and activities. When a zip code area or borough is “Orange or Red zones”, members in that area are expected to suspend all in-person GS activities for that time, as part of their civic responsibility.

When can we take a trip or attend an event?

Trips guidelines have been revised, please visit our website for more information. However, travel and overnight stays are prohibited until further notice. This date will be reviewed as needed.

Can a troop be the color guard at a ceremony and/or parade?

At GSGNY, we feel it is important to continue the important annual traditions within your community when it is safe to do so. Outdoor ceremonies are acceptable for a troop to act as a color guard at an outdoor ceremony if the following conditions are in place: • Troop(s) must be 6 feet from all members of the ceremony wearing masks. • Participation in the ceremony should last no more than an hour. • Parade participation is not permitted at this time.

Can we have an instructor or speaker attend our Outdoor Troop Meeting to work with the girls? Yes, an adult instructor or speaker such as a Yoga Instructor, Art or Dance Teacher or maybe a Naturalist may attend to work with the girls at the meeting. They can be considered as the third adult so not to exceed the permitted group size. The instructor/speaker should be sent the same Outdoor Troop Meeting Requirements information and review the COVID-19 Health Screening questions before participating.

I can't wait to take my troop on a trip. Where can my troop go?

Girl Scouts of Greater New York troops can go anywhere in the five boroughs of New York City.

What is the Girl Scout Adult-to-Girl Safety Ratio?

Girl Scouts' adult-to-girl ratios are the minimum number of background cleared and registered adults needed to supervise a specific number of girls.

Do I have to observe social distancing practices?

Any troop meeting/trips/activity must follow NYC, NYS and CDC guidelines. All girls and volunteers must practice social distancing, wear face coverings (masks) and follow safety

guidelines as outlined by the CDC. It's important to regularly check and following real-time local and national safety directives.

Should I ask the troop caregivers before planning a trip with the troop?

It's important to survey families for their comfort level with respect to returning to in-person gatherings.

Can troop leaders transport their Girl Scouts to the trip/activity location?

We ask that caregivers transport their Girl Scouts to and from the trip/activity location.

What type of training do I need to take my troop on a trip in New York City?

Girl Scouts of Greater New York troop leaders should have completed the GSGNY Leader's Guide to Success training. It's recommended that all troops have a registered and background cleared person who is certified in First Aid/CPR accompany them on trips.

My troop has decided that they are comfortable going to a restaurant. Is this allowed?

This would be considered a troop trip. Any troop trip/activity must follow NYC, NYS and CDC guidelines, as well as the establishment's guidelines.

Can my troop go camping at any camp?

No overnight trips are being approved at this time.

Can my troop go ziplining in Long Island?

Trips outside the five boroughs are not permitted at this time.

Can my troop go horseback riding within New York City?

Troops can go horseback riding. Review the [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) about horseback riding with the Girl Scouts and the caregivers. The stable operator should be able to provide evidence of \$1 million liability insurance and instructor certifications upon request. Additional insurance should be purchased for all participants.

Can I host an in-person Service Unit event?

At this time, we do not encourage large gathering as per the NYS, NYC and CDC guidelines. These in-person meeting guidelines are only for troop meetings and troop trips not for large Service Unit events.

What do I need to prepare my troop for my trip?

Each caregiver must complete and submit the following forms:

- [Girl Scouts of Greater New York Health and Safety Record](#) to troop leaders prior to the trip/activity.
- [Check Safety Activity Checkpoints for planned activity.](#)
- Caregiver Permission for Troop Trip/Activity
- [Attendee Screening Log](#)
- First aid kit, including masks, hand sanitizer, and disinfect wipes.

- Complete a [GSGNY Troop Trip & Insurance Application Form](#) Review the FAQ of when additional insurance is required.

Can we take “tagalongs” on our trip?

Yes, but tagalongs cannot be cared for those who are supervising Girl Scouts.

What is a “tagalong”?

A tagalong is anyone who is in attendance at a Girl Scout activity who is not a registered member of the Girl Scouts of Greater New York.

Do I need to purchase additional insurance for my trip?

If there is anyone going on the trip who is not a registered with Girl Scouts, additional insurance must be purchased. All adults who are supervising Girl Scouts must be registered and background cleared.

Is carpooling allowed?

Carpooling is not allowed at this time.

Can our troop request Subway Passes?

We are not currently able to process any Group Subway Pass applications.

Why aren’t troops being allowed to travel outside of New York City?

The current trip guidelines follow the New York City COVID guidelines, solely.

Is the In-Person Meeting/Trip Request permission a permanent process?

For the immediate future, we will require that troops continue to request permission to meet in person or go on a trip. Submit the In-Person Meeting/Trip Request [here](#).

Thank you for all that you do, and if you have any further questions regarding in-person troop meetings or trip/activity requests, please email [Customer Care](#).