



## **Frequently Asked Questions Returning to In-Person Troop Meetings Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Volunteers**

Thank you for reviewing the Returning to In-Person Troop Meetings - Interim COVID-19 Guidance for volunteers that went into effect on **December 2, 2020**. 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 are prohibited. Troops and SUs need to maintain an Attendee Log for all GS 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, 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.

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