



Camp Usage Guidelines and Procedures

for Troop Overnight Usage

Girl Scouts of Greater Mississippi

The purpose of these guidelines and procedures is to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We aim to do that by minimizing the contact between people and objects that allow the spread. We have outlined guidelines below based on requirements and recommendations from the State of Mississippi, Girl Scouts of the USA, Safety Activity Checkpoints and the American Camping Association. We acknowledge that the safety measures below require additional effort on behalf of our girls, volunteers and staff – it's not camping as usual. Yet we're hopeful that small groups of girls will still be able to gather around the campfire, gaze in wonder at the night sky, challenge themselves on a hike, and create new memories at our Girl Scout camps. These memories that will last a lifetime.

Please read the guidelines below. This is the standard to which you will managing your troop while camping. If you have any questions, feel free to contact our Camp Reservations team at (601)597-7485 or email mstephens@gsgms.org. We're here to help!

Troop leaders and families should thoughtfully discuss if they are ready to have an overnight experience. Caregivers who are not ready to participate overnight should be provided a way to participate during the day or find additional ways to stay connected to the troop. Each troop/family should weigh their participation based on their own health concerns and tolerance for risk.

Overnight Camping

Each troop must appoint a 'Safety Deputy' for the campout. The responsibilities of this person are to make sure a "Protocols" meeting is held at the beginning of the campout for everyone in attendance and to **make sure the protocols are followed throughout the stay at camp**. In particular, this person will monitor the use of face masks, enforce hand washing and ensure all sanitization guidelines are followed for a minimal number of people touching common areas, like water coolers, etc.

Face Coverings. Girls can bring their own face coverings. Have disposable masks on hand for those who need them. Instruct girls and adults to cover both their nose and their mouth with the face mask.

Hand Washing. Ensure soap and water for handwashing are available in restrooms. The Safety Deputy should check each space frequently to ensure handwashing and sanitizing supplies are present. Handwashing (or sanitizing) should be done:

- Upon arrival, upon returning from the outside, and when visibly soiled.
- Before and after any new activity, and after any breaks.

- Before and after eating, serving, or preparing food. All food preparation and serving must be done by adults. Gloves are available at the camp for adults to use.
- After coughing, sneezing, or contact with any bodily fluids.
- After using the restroom.
- After cleaning, sanitizing, or using any chemical products.
- Before and after administering any medication.
- Prior to departure.

BEFORE OVERNIGHT CAMPING

MANDATORY

- 1.) Operate under reduced capacity. No more than ½ capacity for each structure, including platform tents and buildings, being used is allowed (Safety Activity Checkpoints Adult Ratios must be observed).
- 2.) Symptoms must be assessed before attending a troop overnight. Any individual having a fever of 100 degrees or higher cannot attend.
- 3.) Ensure that your troop has a First Aid/CPR/AED Certified adult in attendance.
- 4.) Ensure that your troop has an OLS Certified adult in attendance.

RECOMMENDED

- 1.) Identify participants with higher risk factors related to COVID-19 and encourage them to take additional precautions while preparing for camp.
- 2.) Participants should record their temperature for 14 days before the event. School monitoring of temperatures is sufficient. If they have a temperature of higher than 100 degrees or any other COVID-19 symptoms they should not attend.
- 3.) Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19 in the last 14 days, should not attend.
- 4.) Troop members should travel to meetings with only members of their household in the vehicle. Consider staggering drop-offs and pick-ups when scheduling your campout, to eliminate the possibility of larger groups gathering.
- 5.) Campers should provide their own personal bedding, needed clothing, personal hygiene items, and any other items specified by the camp organizer. These items should be stored with the camper's personal belongings and should not be shared amongst campers.
- 6.) Program activities should be limited to each group separately. Large group activities should not occur. Participants from a single sleeping quarter should remain together, including at mealtime and during activities.

DURING OVERNIGHT CAMPING

MANDATORY

- 1.) Make sure to locate the box of cleaning and sanitizing supplies that will be left for your troop. The Safety Deputy must keep up with these at all times.
- 2.) Six-foot social distance between individuals must be adhered to.
- 3.) Troop leaders - use a touchless thermometer to check temperatures when arriving and leaving.
- 4.) Attendees must wash their hands when arriving and before leaving. If a handwashing station is not available, hand sanitizer is required. Additional Handwashing guidance is provided on page 2 of this document.
- 5.) Troops should follow the no touch rule. No friendship squeeze, high-fives, handshakes, or any other physical contact.
- 6.) Immediately isolate and seek medical care for any individual who develops symptoms while at the meeting/activity.
- 7.) Sanitize all high-touch surfaces throughout the day, including doorknobs, railings, restrooms, etc. and any tools, supplies, and equipment before and after usage.
- 8.) Troops have a First Aid/CPR/AED Certified adult in attendance.
- 9.) Troops have an Outdoor Living Skills Certified adult in attendance.
- 10.) All equipment used must be sanitized between participant use. This includes bows and arrows, canoe paddles, handles and grips on paddle boards and peddle boats, etc.

RECOMMENDED

- 1.) All participants should wear a cloth face covering (mask) when not actively participating in physical activities.
- 2.) Participants should limit interactions to those from the same sleeping quarters.
- 3.) Girls should limit the items brought from home; any items brought should remain in the girls' backpacks. No items should be shared.
- 4.) Common areas such as restrooms, cabins, dining space, and other high traffic areas should be sanitized a minimum of twice a day, with increased instances during peak times.

MEALS AND FOOD

MANDATORY

- 1.) Adult volunteers must wear gloves to prepare and serve meals.
- 2.) Adult volunteers must serve all food and drinks and provide utensils to each camper. No buffets or family style meals should be served. In addition, the use of common and self-serve items should be prohibited.

- 3.) No communal dishes, shared water coolers or shared drinking stations. An adult member of a troop may prepare a water cooler, but one adult must be assigned to fill individual water bottles for the girls. The girl should hold the water bottle, and one adult should touch the water cooler dispenser to avoid the risk of cross contamination. Adults should wear gloves.

RECOMMENDED

- 1.) Serve only prepackaged food; or have participants bring pre-prepared meals from home for individual consumption.
- 2.) Adult volunteers, in addition to gloves, should wear cloth face coverings to prepare and serve meals.

SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

MANDATORY

1. Occupancy is not more than 50% capacity per tent unit sleeping area. In closed-in sleeping areas, bunk beds should not be used. Girls should only sleep on bottom bunks with at least 6 feet between them and the next girl.
2. Cots and mattresses ARE NOT TO BE MOVED, as they are spaced in order to meet state and health official guidelines.
3. Head-to-toe sleeping is used.

RECOMMENDED

- 1.) Each camper should provide their own personal bedding, needed clothing, personal hygiene items, and any other items specified by camp coordinator. These items should be stored with the camper's personal belongings and should not be shared amongst campers.
- 2.) Sleeping quarters should be cleaned and sanitized once per day.
- 3.) Participants should not rotate among sleeping quarters. Participants should limit interactions to those from the same sleeping quarters.

AFTER OVERNIGHT CAMPING

MANDATORY

- 1.) Sanitize all surfaces, tools and equipment after usage.
- 2.) Leaders must keep complete list of attendees at each meeting / event and include the date and beginning and ending time of the event, to be made available to local health districts if requested.
- 3.) In the event of a COVID-19 positive test result, you must immediately submit a written Incident Report immediately to the CEO. A council staff member and NOT volunteers, will be responsible to:
 - Alert the state and local departments of health.

- Work with the local department(s) of health to contact the caregivers of anyone who may have been exposed, or other adult volunteers, without divulging the positive tester's identity.
- 4.) After your campout, send email to Matilda Stephens at mstephens@gsgms with any additional safety precautions you feel should be done or implemented.

RECOMMENDED

Keep an open dialogue with families about current conditions and willingness to meet in person and hold events.

These are the guidelines for Girl Scouts of Greater Mississippi. They may or may not be exactly in line with state guidelines. However, these are what we have established for the safest operation of our camps. These guidelines and protocols must be followed.