

GIRL SCOUTS OF THE NORTHWESTERN GREAT LAKES:

GSNWGL GUIDELINES

For In-Person Troop and Service Area Activities



COVID-19 Guidance for Volunteers

This guidance is being provided as of August 1, 2020. GSNWGL may modify this guidance from time to time as circumstances change. These guidelines were pulled together from recommendations of GSUSA, Wisconsin and Michigan health departments, CDC guidelines, and advice from Council advisors. We thank you for your commitment to safety by complying to these guidelines.

Guidelines for Safer Gatherings:

- Online meetings are the first choice.
- If you make the choice to gather in person, follow the guidelines on this page and require the girls and all adult volunteers to wear masks.
- Follow all current state and local guidance.
- Develop and communicate a plan that families are comfortable with.
- Be sensitive that girls who are medically vulnerable cannot attend. Be sensitive that families will have varying levels of comfort with gathering.

Meeting Place Guidelines:

- Outdoor spaces where social distancing can be maintained is the best option.
- For meetings held in public facilities, call ahead to prepare- Is the space cleaned and sanitized at least daily? Is the space cleaned between groups?
- Do not hold meetings in fitness centers or gyms.
- Frequently disinfect surfaces and equipment touched by the girls.
- As they are normally, meetings in the home are discouraged. However, we acknowledge it may be difficult to find public meeting places this year. We are temporarily lifting the restriction of not meeting in homes to give troops more options. When meeting in a home, pets may not be in the same area where the meeting is taking place, only adults who are approved volunteers can be present, and the families of your girls must be notified and approve of the troop meeting location.

Note: Our Council will have additional resources on our website for in-person troop meetings - a troop readiness guide, meeting signage, and a tool to communicate with parents - and additional resources for service area events.

Guidelines for Troop and Service Area Activities:

- Virtual meetings are still an option. If your troop cannot meet virtually, encourage girls to participate in eTroop, our council digital troop meetings, free and available to all girls.
- Practice physical distancing- stay at least 6 feet apart.
- The bigger the group, the bigger the risk. Meet in groups of 10 or fewer, including the adult volunteers. If you have a bigger group, it is recommended that you meet in smaller groups or patrols.
- Outdoor activities are better than indoor activities.
- Girl Scouts show care and concern for others. Wear masks to reduce spread of the virus to others. Use masks that cover nose and mouth. A CDC reminder is to make sure you can breathe through your mask. If you need masks, call customer care at 888.747.6945 to request masks.
- Do not include meals or snacks as part of any activities. If the time requires food, have girls bring their own food or provide individually wrapped items utilizing proper precautions.
- Arrive in separate cars, by household.
- Call ahead to field trip locations and inquire about their COVID19 safeguards and ensure you and your families are comfortable.
- Travel/trips are suspended until further notice.
- Overnights are suspended until further notice.
- Our council facilities will be available for limited rentals with restrictions for safety, watch our website for up-to-date information.
- Remind participants to stay home if they or a member of their household feel ill. Encourage participants to take temperatures before they leave home and stay home if they exceed temperatures of 100.
- Wash your hands frequently. Use soap and water for 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Remind the girls to avoid touching their faces, eyes, nose, and mouth. And ask them to wash their hands immediately if they do.
- For the time being, refrain from hugs, handshakes, and the Friendship Circle. Create a safe way for the girls to end a meeting without personal contact.
- If, after your gather, a participant or a member of their family becomes ill, do NOT contact the parents or troop members. Contact your local health department, which will lead to applicable contact tracing. Please also call our Council at 888.747.6945 to let us know that you called the health department. Remember that girl and volunteer health information is private and strictly confidential.

Fall Troop Ideas

There are so many challenges your troop might be facing because of the Coronavirus- your group might be too large to meet, you might not be allowed to meet in your usual meeting place, or you might have girls or family members who feel safer staying home. Girl Scouts are innovators! There are still ways your troop can have great experiences together. And when it's safe to meet, you can transition to more in-person meetings!



Ideas that Always Work!

- Participate in eTroop together
- Go on an outdoor field trip
- Use the slide decks on the [Girl Scouts @ Home](#) section of [gsnwg.org](#) to lead a virtual troop meetings
- Participate in the monthly service project
- Use [Girl Scouts @ Home](#) to earn badges

Sample Troop Plan

	Meeting 1	Fun Idea to do Between Meetings	Meeting 2	Fun Idea to do Between Meetings
September	Use the slide decks on the Girl Scouts @ Home page of gsnwg.org to lead your troop through a virtual meeting and earning a badge.	Challenge the girls to decorate their best cupcake. Set a Zoom meeting to show off their cupcakes, award prizes for the most artistic and most creative, and eat their cupcakes together!	Meet in a backyard or a campground and have a campfire. Practice social distance and bring your own snacks!	Send ideas to the girls for making SWAPS. Tell the girls to make SWAPS, enough for each girl in your troop. Ask the girls' families to drop off the SWAPS at your home. Make package of the SWAPS for each of the girls in your troop, one from each troop member and drop the packages of SWAPS off at your girls' homes.
October	Participate in a community service project together- for example- making cards for a local senior center.	Set a Zoom meeting to play the game Scattergories together	Meet at a nature trail and go for a scavenger hunt, practicing social distance	Take a virtual field trip together. Lots of zoos have live feed of their animals. Get together and make an animal craft and visit several zoos online.
November	Invite a parent or a community resource to share a special skill or help you earn a badge. Also an option- the Grade Level Earned Awards section of Girl Scouts @ Home includes videos of experts to help you earn badges.	Tell the girls to each make a friendship bracelet and send it to you. Send each of their friendship bracelets to a different girl. Tell the girls to wear their bracelets to the next meeting!	Use the On Your Own page of gsnwg.org to find a field trip location you and your families feel comfortable with.	Have a scavenger hunt on a Zoom call. Say an object, and then give the girls just a few seconds to find it in their homes and show it on camera.
December	Earn one of the council patch programs on the On Your Own section of gsnwg.org .	Host an online trivia game and invite the whole family!	Attend the council eTroop meeting together as a troop.	Challenge the girls to make their most impressive Lego scene and take a picture of it and share it in a group chat.