

COVID Guidance Effective June 2, 2021:

The safety of our members is of primary importance to GSNEO. Because the COVID-19 vaccine is currently unavailable to children under the age of 12 and children ages 12-17 are just beginning to be vaccinated, GSNEO is setting the following guidelines effective June 2, 2021. These guidelines were developed in response to the lifting of state mandates and with input from the Ohio Department of Health Responsible Protocols. We have adopted these guidelines to limit transmission of COVID-19 within groups participating in GSNEO meetings, trainings or events.

From the start of the pandemic, Girl Scouts have proven themselves to be strong community supporters, going above and beyond to keep themselves and others safe. COVID-19 remains an extremely contagious virus that spreads easily in the community. Volunteers should continue take all reasonable precautions to limit exposure and prevent community transmission.

Guidelines:

1. **Set clear expectations and communicate with families on any plans for your troop** so that they know what to expect and can make decisions that best fit their personal situation.
2. **Remind potential participants to stay home if they are sick.** Individuals should assess themselves before attending in-person events. Please do not attend an event if you have any known symptoms of COVID-19 or are unvaccinated and have been exposed to COVID-19.
3. **Maintain good hygiene.** Allow for handwashing, sanitizing and social distancing. Avoid self-serve food and drink stations.
4. **Clean and sanitize** high touch surfaces, equipment, and shared supplies regularly.
5. **Meet physical distancing guidelines.** There are no longer recommended group size limitations; however physical distancing is still recommended.
 - o Meet outdoors and spread out, if possible.
 - o If meeting indoors, consider the facility and establish a maximum capacity to accommodate physical distancing.
6. **Masks.** If you cannot maintain physical distancing with your group, then masks are required. Masks should either be on or off for everyone, regardless of vaccination status. If girls are wearing masks, then adults should also wear masks to serve as good role models.

As always, we'll continue to monitor the situation and update these guidelines as needed. Please feel free to contact GSNEO Customer Care at 800-852-4474, customercare@gsneo.org, or via Live Chat with any questions that you might have.

A note about GSNEO Summer Camp Programs:

We are continuing to review guidance from the American Camping Association and the CDC about GSNEO Summer Camp Programs, including overnight residential camps. Families involved in these programs will get direct communication about the protocols closer to the start date of camp.

We'll be reviewing each camp program individually and considering staff ratios to see if there is room to increase camp capacity. If capacity is increased in any program, we'll utilize the waitlist to contact campers to fill the available spots.

FAQs

What about Troop Camping?

Troop camping is generally a smaller group of girls (one troop) that camp in one housing unit, please follow the guidelines above.

What about Service Unit Campouts?

Service unit campouts usually involve multiple troops or groups camping together in multiple housing units. Contact GSNEO if you're planning a SU overnight event this summer and would like guidance. We'll generally provide guidance similar to resident camp protocols. At this time, we do not have guidance for fall Service Unit Campouts.

What about Service Unit Events?

Service unit daytime events should follow the guidelines listed above.

Can we have a group larger than 10?

Yes, there isn't a limitation on group size; however, you should consider the site and accommodate physical distancing or wear masks. Follow the guidance above for good hygiene and extra cleaning protocols.

If I'm vaccinated, do I have to wear a mask?

If you cannot maintain physical distancing, then masks are required. Masks should either be on or off for everyone, regardless of vaccination status. If girls are wearing masks, then adults should also wear masks to serve as good role models.

Can I require everyone that is participating in a Girl Scout event to have a vaccine?

No. GSNEO encourages, but does not require, vaccination for girls, volunteers, or staff. Deciding to receive a vaccine is a personal decision and GSNEO encourages everyone to respect the privacy of fellow members and their families. Vaccination status is private medical information.

Will there be more opportunities for participation in training and program events?

We'll be reviewing each training and program event individually. If there is room to increase capacity, we'll utilize the waitlist to fill the spots available.

Do I need an appointment to visit a GSNEO Council Shop?

No. GSNEO shop appointments are no longer required, and walk-ins are welcomed! For your convenience, curbside and materials pick-up can be scheduled. [Shop | Girl Scouts of North East Ohio \(gsneo.org\)](https://www.gsneo.org)

What if there is a COVID-19 exposure at an in-person Girl Scout event?

If you need to report a positive COVID-19 test result for someone who has recently attended any Girl Scout-related meeting or event, please maintain confidentiality and [complete this form](#). GSNEO will provide templates to help notify participants that they have been exposed to COVID-19.