

Girl Scouts of North East Ohio has established the guidelines below for troops, service units, and groups who are ready to meet in person.

1. These guidelines are based on measures shared by the State of Ohio as part of Responsible Restart Ohio with input from local health departments and are subject to change if state or local conditions change.
2. In addition to the protocols below, all Girl Scout policies and procedures must be followed, including Safety Activity Checkpoints when applicable.
3. Volunteers and families should thoughtfully discuss if they are ready to meet in person. Caregivers who are not ready to meet should be provided a way to stay connected to the troop.
4. In-person meetings are not required. Each group/family should weigh their participation based on their own health concerns and tolerance for risk. Groups who prefer to continue with virtual meetings and activities may continue to do so. Girl Scouts of North East Ohio will not penalize any girls or volunteers who are unwilling or unable to meet in person.

From the start of this 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 take all reasonable precautions to limit potential exposure for girls, themselves and families and to prevent additional community transmission.

Face Coverings. Volunteers should remind girls that Girl Scouts wear face coverings (masks) not only to protect themselves but to protect others. Face coverings are a civic responsibility and a sign of caring for the community. Girls can bring their own face coverings. Have disposable masks on hand for those who need them. Volunteers can teach girls [how to handle their face coverings](#) so that the coverings are effective. Due to medical conditions, some girls or volunteers may not be able to wear masks; in these instances, a face shield is recommended.

BEFORE IN-PERSON MEETINGS/EVENTS

MANDATORY

1. Operate under reduced capacity. No more than ten people (minimum of two adults must be present at all times, and eight or fewer girls). GSNEO covers 18 counties in the state of Ohio and requirements may vary from county to county or even city to city. Please follow guidance from your local authorities. The most up to date county alerts can be found here: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/public-health-advisory-system/>.
2. Symptoms must be assessed before attending an in-person meeting/event. Any individual having a fever of 100°F or higher, body aches, chills, vomiting, diarrhea, new loss of taste or smell or other known COVID-19 symptoms recognized by the Ohio Department of Health cannot attend. Those with known exposure to COVID-19, or who have recently travelled to an area where the State of Ohio has recommended quarantine: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/families-and-individuals/COVID-19-Travel-Advisory>, also may not attend.

RECOMMENDED

1. Outdoor spaces where social distancing can be maintained are strongly recommended for meetings when the weather permits.

2. Participants should travel to meetings with only members of their household in the vehicle.
3. Girls should limit the items brought from home and any item brought should remain in the girl's backpack. No items should be shared.

DURING IN-PERSON MEETINGS/EVENTS

MANDATORY

1. All participants must wear a mask or cloth face covering when not actively participating in physical activities.
2. 6-foot social distance between individuals must be adhered to.
3. Participants must wash their hands when arriving and before leaving. If a handwashing station is not available, hand sanitizer is required.
4. Participants should follow the no touch rule. No friendship squeeze, high-fives, handshakes, or any other physical contact.
5. Sanitize all surfaces, tools and equipment after usage. Consider having individual "kits" to avoid sharing supplies.
6. No shared water coolers or shared drinking stations.
7. Serve only prepackaged food; gloves must be worn when serving food. No communal, shared, or self-serve food items or beverages. Participants may bring their own snacks.
8. Immediately isolate and seek medical care for any individual who develops symptoms while at the meeting/activity. If clean-up of bodily fluid is needed, wear PPE and use a disinfectant that will kill COVID-19.

RECOMMENDED

1. Volunteers/troop leaders have a touchless thermometer to check temperatures when arriving and leaving.
2. Girls should limit the items brought from home and any items brought should remain in the girls' backpacks. No items should be shared.
3. Keep a seating chart for each meeting. In the event contact tracing would need to be conducted, having a seating chart will help provide information on who would potentially be considered close contacts.
4. Troops have a certified CPR and AED adult in attendance.

AFTER IN-PERSON MEETINGS/EVENTS

MANDATORY

1. Sanitize all surfaces, tools and equipment after usage.
2. Volunteers/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. Volunteers/Leaders must immediately submit a written [Incident Report](#) to GSNEO if an attendee tests positive for COVID-19.
4. GSNEO staff will:
 1. Alert the county department(s) of health.
 2. 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.

RECOMMENDED

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

For additional guidance, please see the [Volunteer COVID-19 Guidance by GSUSA](#) and review the [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#).