



For over 100 years, our movement has been committed to providing safe camping experiences for girls. Girl Scouts of North East Ohio is excited to announce that limited camping will re-open on September 11, 2020. We've outlined guidelines below based on requirements and recommendations from the State of Ohio, Girl Scouts of the USA, 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 Girl Scout camp. Memories that will last a lifetime.

Please take a few moments to read the guidelines below. Of course, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Customer Care team at 800-852-4474. We're here to help!

Notice: As of July 7, 2020, our camp properties will be re-opening to overnight camping on September 11, 2020. Girl Scouts of North East Ohio is providing these guidelines to aid troops and service units in planning and expectations for their future overnight camp reservations. This document is pending and subject to change prior to the reopening date, as we closely monitor recommendations by state and local health departments and authorities.

## OVERNIGHT CAMPING

These guidelines are based on measures shared by the State of Ohio as part of [Responsible RestartOhio](#), and are subject to change if state or local conditions change.

1. In addition to the protocols below, all Girl Scout policies and procedures must be followed, including Safety Activity Checkpoints when applicable.
2. Volunteers, troops, 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 or group.
3. Each group/family should weigh their participation based on their own health concerns and tolerance for risk.
4. Communal spaces, such as the dining hall, playgrounds, equipment rentals and large program spaces are not available.

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 cloth 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. Some girls or volunteers may not be able to wear masks, due to medical conditions such as asthma.

Face covering mandates and recommendations from State of Ohio, county, or local authorities must be followed by all who are able. Your camp confirmation will include the name of the city and county of the property so your group can follow local requirements.

**Handwashing.** Ensure soap and water for handwashing are available in restrooms, with hand sanitizer available in latrines. 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.
- 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. These guidelines must be used in conjunction with the [GSUSA Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) (Camping, pages 47-52).
2. Operate under reduced capacity. No more than ten people (minimum of two adults must be present at all times, and eight or fewer girls).
3. Symptoms must be assessed before attending any in-person meeting or overnight event. Any individual having a fever of 100 degrees or higher cannot attend.
4. Ensure that your troop/group has a First Aid/CPR/AED Certified adult in attendance.
5. Ensure that your troop/group has a GSNEO Outdoor Essential 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. 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. Participants 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. These guidelines must be used in conjunction with the [GSUSA Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) (Camping, pages 47-52).
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. Additional Handwashing guidance is provided on page 2 of this document.
4. Participants should follow the no touch rule. No friendship squeeze, high-fives, handshakes, or any other physical contact.
5. Immediately isolate and seek medical care for any individual who develops symptoms while at the meeting/activity.
6. Sanitize all high-touch surfaces throughout the day, including doorknobs, railings, restrooms, etc. and any tools, supplies, and equipment before and after usage.
7. Troops/groups have a First Aid/CPR/AED Certified adult in attendance.
8. Troops/groups have a GSNEO Outdoor Essential Certified adult in attendance.

### RECOMMENDED

1. Volunteers/Troop leaders have a touchless thermometer to check temperatures when arriving and leaving.
2. All participants should wear a cloth face covering (mask) when not actively participating in physical activities.
3. Participants should limit interactions to those from the same sleeping quarters.
4. Girls should limit the items brought from home; any items brought should remain in the girls' backpacks. No items should be shared.
5. 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.

### 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 10 people (minimum of two adults must be present at all times, and eight or fewer girls) per sleeping area.
2. Head-to-toe sleeping is used, especially on bunk beds.

### RECOMMENDED

1. There should be 6 feet between beds, if possible.
2. 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.
3. Sleeping quarters should be cleaned and sanitized once per day.
4. 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 s 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](#) to GSNEO. Do NOT contact the parents, other volunteers or troop members.

Promptly contact your council in this situation. A council staff member and NOT volunteers, will be responsible for:

- 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.

#### **RECOMMENDED**

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

#### **Additional guidance and resources:**

- [GSNEO COVID-19 Guidelines for In-Person Meetings](#)
- [Responsible RestartOhio: Residential Camps](#)
- [GSUSA Volunteer COVID-19 Guidance](#)
  - [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#)