

Returning to In-Person Troop Meetings and Activities Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Volunteers

This guidance is being provided as of June 25, 2020. Girl Scouts of Southern Nevada (GSSNV) may modify this guidance, from time to time as circumstances change. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious virus that spreads easily in the community. The COVID-19 [pandemic](#) continues to change as infection rates rise and fall in different areas.

Check the [GSSNV COVID-19 page](#) regularly for updates on the status of our council phased response. For additional information on the COVID-19 response follow the [resources developed by the CDC](#) or [Nevada Health Response website](#).

Guidelines:

Troop Meeting Space. Outdoor spaces where social distancing can be maintained are strongly recommended for meetings. Get advance permission from the property owner or the jurisdiction that provides the location.

For meetings held at public facilities, contact the facility ahead of time and ask:

- Is the space cleaned, and touch surfaces (i.e., tabletops, light switches, chairs, etc.) sanitized, at least daily?
- Who else uses the space (how often, what size is the group)? Is the space cleaned between groups?
- What type of faucets / soap dispensers are available in the restroom (sensory or manual)?

Then, consider whether you can supplement any practices that are less ideal. For example, if you will arrive after another user group, plan to bring sanitizing wipes or disinfectant spray to get the space ready for your troop. Another example: if faucets are manual, take some time to show girls how to shut them off with a paper towel. Use paper towels for doorknobs whenever possible.

Meetings may not be held in fitness centers or gyms, where a greater risk for contracting the virus may exist. Schools or churches may not permit outside groups on premises, so always check and confirm ahead of time.

Troop Meetings in the home. GSUSA and GSSNV strongly suggests no meetings in the home out of concern that there would be greater risk of exposure to other family members. The recommendation is to stay away from in-home meetings for the time being. Suggested meeting sites – in the park, community centers, or reserve a time at the scout houses/council office. If you would like to learn other suggestion for meeting sites please contact membership support team at customerservice@girlsoutsnv.org.

Troop Meeting Size. Due to COVID the suggested maximum number of people able to meet may change frequently. Refer to the adult girl ratio in the [GSSNV Membership Handbook](#). At a minimum there must be at least two unrelated trained and background checked adults at every

meeting. Before planning any gatherings of more than ten people contact GSSNV Membership Support team and customerservice@girlscoutsnv.org.

If you have a large troop, stay connected while you wait for a safe time for everyone to gather. Large troops are wonderful, so stay together!:

- Host [virtual troop meetings](#) (see below).
- Gather up in smaller groups—such as age-level groups, patrols, or groups of girls with a particular badge they'd like to work on.

Transportation. Individual parents drop off and pick up their own girls from meetings. Carpooling and public transportation should be avoided, where possible, to maintain social distancing.

Virtual meetings. Meeting options may need to be flexible based on the fluid nature of COVID-19 risk. It is suggested that even when in-person troops meetings are allowed that troops may continue to run virtual meetings/activities to ensure a varied experience for girls. Use the [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) for Virtual Meetings, to guide your meeting plans: [Virtual Troop Meetings](#).

Other helpful resources can be found here: [Getting Started with Virtual Troop Meetings](#)

Day trips and activities. In conjunction with Safety Activity Checkpoints, follow the same guidance in the Troop Meetings and Avoiding exposure sections in this document. Call ahead to the facility or vendor to confirm that they are following CDC and state health department guidelines. If activity or sporting equipment is being provided, ask the provider if they wipe down equipment in between uses, similar to equipment at the gym. Make whatever appropriate accommodations that are needed and if necessary, cancel the event/activity. Always bring your First Aid kit with the supplies listed in the First Aid section of this document

Travel and overnight stays. Overnight trips are not permitted until GSSNV has entered in phase 3 of our re-opening process. GSSNV may enter into our phase 3 at a later date than the state of Nevada.

Contact the GSSNV Membership Support Team at customerservice@girlscoutsnv.org to determine what COVID-19 phase status the council is currently in prior to planning any overnight stays. Also, follow Safety activity Checkpoints when planning your travel and overnight trips.

Avoiding Exposure. Follow the [resources developed by the CDC](#) or [Nevada Health Response website](#). Share these with girls, parents/caregivers and volunteers and ensure that they are practiced during meetings and activities. Place signs in the meeting or activity space to remind girls and volunteers to engage in [everyday preventive actions](#) to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Signs should include:

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Cough and sneeze into a tissue, throw the tissue in the trash, and wash or sanitize your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Wash hands if you do touch.

- Volunteers, girls and parents should be reminded to make sure temperatures are taken prior to group interaction to confirm the individual is not running a fever and temperature is a normal 98.6 degrees. Members with fever or temperature higher than 98.6 should skip the in-person gathering until their temperature is normal.

Personal contact. Hugs, handshakes, “high-fives,” and even activities like the friendship circle or squeeze can transmit COVID-19 from person to person. Refrain from these gestures for the time being. Create a safe way for girls and volunteers to greet and end meetings instead (like tapping elbows).

First Aid Supplies. Troop first aid supplies should include COVID-19 prevention items including hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol), tissues, disposable facemasks, and disinfectants. Trash baskets or bags should be supplied for meeting and activity spaces, if not already available. Make sure that the trash baskets (or bags) are easily accessible for girls. Disposable or no-contact thermometers may be added to supplies if available and not cost-prohibitive, however, parents should be checking temperatures and allowing their girl(s) to join group activities only when temperatures are normal.

First Aid / CPR Training. Keep skills up-to-date for any emergency. Check [GSSNV Events page](#) for upcoming in person First Aid/CPR courses.

Disinfectants and Disinfecting. [Routinely clean and disinfect surfaces](#) and objects that are frequently touched (i.e., table tops, markers, scissors, etc.). Use a household cleaner, or see the [EPA’s list of effective cleaners](#) approved for use against COVID-19. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).

Girls should be supervised at all times when using disinfectant/cleaning solutions. See the [CDC’s website](#) for more on cleaning and disinfecting community facilities.

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.

Reporting and communicating a positive COVID 19 test. In the event of a COVID-19 positive test result, **do not** contact the parents or troop members. Promptly contact GSSNV at 702-385-3677 or customercare@girlscoutsnv.org in this situation. GSSNV will work in partnership with the Southern Nevada Health District to contact members that have been exposed.

Remember that girl and volunteer health information is private and strictly confidential and should be only shared on a need to know basis with a GSSNV staff member.