

Camp and Overnight Activity Guidance

Learn more at gssjc.org/covid19

Our no. 1 priority is health and safety. All of our camps meet the standards that are set by the state of Texas, Centers for Disease Control, Girl Scouts of the USA, and the American Camp Association. These standards include health and safety, maintenance, program, and personnel. For more information, [see our day-only activity guidance](#) also.

COVID-19 Protocols

We know how important camp is to girls and leaders. We are also ensuring that we all remain safe during the uncertain times of COVID-19.

GSSJC is committed to and focused on safety and flexibility in the COVID-19 environment. Our camps use a series of non-pharmacological layers to reduce the transmission risk of COVID-19 and prevent infectious diseases at camp, as recommended by the American Camp Association (ACA) and the Association of Camp Nurses (ACN).

These include: health screening, hygiene protocols, masks, physical distancing, monitoring, and testing.

Troop Camping Only: These are troops coming to camp that will either do their own programs and/or provide their own certified archery, boating, swim instructors, etc. Masks are required indoors, and troops must avoid interaction with any other groups on property. Activity groups no larger than 20 people including adults are required. No COVID-19 test is required. One activity group per half unit and manage separate shower use.

Council-wide/Region/Community/SIG: These activities mix people from different areas. Large groups should divide their participants into activity groups for the duration of the event or weekend. These activity groups should be no larger than 20 people including adult volunteer ratio. One activity group per half unit and manage separate shower use between activity groups when feasible. Rapid testing may be required upon arrival at camp and will be determined based on test availability and nature of program plan/participation.

Note: Troops and individual adult volunteers may choose to self-test prior to driving to camp to ensure that everyone in the group tests negative, and if doing so, may skip the testing at camp check-in. Individual girls attending camp will continue to be tested at check-in. For guidance see Form F-219E GSSJC Pretesting Option for GSSJC Camp Activities

For guidance on testing procedure, GSSJC will provide guidance to volunteers on how to test. On-site testing requirements at check-in will be communicated to participants in advance of their activity. First aiders and their helper volunteers would be required to administer tests with supervision of a GSSJC staff member or a qualified volunteer.

Those who have recovered from COVID-19 in the last 90 days may provide a doctor's note or confirmation of a positive test from a medical clinic or testing facility in lieu of required testing. If this applies to you or someone in your troop and you are unable to secure a doctor's note, please contact Melissa Hardy at mhardy@sjgs.org for further guidance.

For the immediate future, camp programs led by council instructors where physical distance cannot be maintained will be restricted to those who are overnight camping.

Example: Adventure Park

Phase 1: Only overnight campers could reserve a slot and slots would be for one troop or activity group at a time.

Phase 2: Day only use is added and restricted to one troop/activity group at a time.

Phase 3: Open for mixed usage by any troop/group as space permits (normal).

Pool and equitation programs are exempt with proper social distancing.

Masks

GSSJC is committed to being a sister to every Girl Scout and protecting one another's health and safety by wearing face masks to reduce potential disease transmission, as advised by the CDC and required by GSUSA. Masks are required when indoors at any GSSJC facility. Mask should especially be worn in situations where participants are singing, cheering or otherwise shouting, or when physical distance may not be maintained outdoors (e.g. as groups are changing activities). Masks are not required when sleeping, eating, showering or brushing teeth.

Physical Distancing

Participants should maintain physical distancing of at least six feet between people and 30 feet between activity groups.

Hand Hygiene

Hand washing has always been an important activity at Girl Scout camp, but it is even more critical this year. Look for new handwashing and hand sanitizing stations throughout camp.

Sanitizing

All shared activity equipment and communal spaces should be cleaned between uses by different activity groups.

Report Cases to Council

If any Girl Scout or participant is confirmed to be COVID-19 positive within 14 days of participating in a Girl Scout activity, the family must contact Melissa Hardy (mhardy@sjgs.org) to allow council staff to manage communication and contact tracing and maintain appropriate confidentiality.

Additional Guidance

GSSJC is using a multi-layered model of protection and risk management (sometimes referred to as a “Swiss Cheese” model) to evaluate COVID protocols for council-wide activities and those that gather members from beyond their neighborhood. No one mechanism is full-proof, but using an appropriate combination of protective measures can provide a safer opportunity for Girl Scouts to participate in the activities they love. Our guidance encourages event and activity planners to implement as many layers of protection as reasonably possible and based on the nature of their event plans.

Required:

- Check-in log, pre-screening, permission slips and health forms are required for in-person activities.
- Masks are required indoors at GSSJC facilities and during some outdoor activities at GSSJC properties. They are also required when a participant’s local school requires them. Masks are strongly preferred/highly recommended at all Girl Scout activities including when not on council property.
- Assign participants to activity groups of no more than 20 including adult ratio volunteers.
- Frequent handwashing/sanitizing.
- Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces.
- Groups planning overnight activities off council property may consider whether they can accommodate testing at check-in, at their expense. If they choose to do so, groups are permitted to require attendees to provide evidence of a negative COVID test upon arrival.

Additional safety measures:

Incorporate when appropriate or as reasonably possible:

- Maintain 6 feet of distance between participants. Required for sleeping arrangements as noted above. (At any time masks cannot be worn, 6 feet of distance is highly recommended.)
- Prioritize outdoor activities as they may result in lower potential for transmission compared to indoor activities.
- When necessary and not accommodated by the adult ratio volunteers, instructors may be additional to activity groups. When such girl or adult instructors are needed to support activity groups for their planned program, consider what additional layers of protection can be maintained to minimize exposure from group to group (e.g., outdoors, physical distance, masks, etc.).
- Manage unmasked times within activity groups. This includes eating, sleeping, showering/personal hygiene and water activities. Consider separate times assigned to activity groups for use of shared shower facilities.
- Avoid activity groups interacting within 30 feet of each other – consider impacts to activity change times, meal times, check-in, carpooling, etc.
- Limit shared items and when needed, clean and disinfect between activity groups.
- Rapid testing at GSSJC camp check-in: GSSJC will evaluate the need for screening tests for activities at GSSJC camps. GSSJC will notify and provide testing for groups based on availability and overall nature of program plan. Council-wide, special interest group, region and community groups at camp should expect that they may be required to complete a rapid test at check-in (based on availability). Troops that are only camping as a troop and not participating in any additional hosted programs will not be screened at check-in.
- Groups planning overnight activities off council property may consider whether they can accommodate testing at check-in.

Please note: No participant may attend in-person activities if they are symptomatic/sick in general, or have tested positive for COVID-19 or have recently been exposed to COVID-19 (following CDC guidelines), or are exhibiting new COVID-19 symptoms including fever as outlined on the check-in log.