

# COVID-19 Guidelines for In-Person Girl Scout Activity

## **Purpose:**

Girl Scouts – Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas has developed the Guidelines for In-Person Girl Scout Activity as defined below. These guidelines are for use by Girl Scout members to allow in-person meetings and events within service units and troops. Girl Scouts – Diamonds retains the right to tailor the application of these criteria to local circumstances (e.g., areas that have suffered severe COVID outbreaks, rural and suburban areas where outbreaks have not occurred or have been mild).

Adherence to these guidelines is necessary to keep all members safe, while allowing members to meet safely. No member at any time should be pressured to meet in person. All decisions by the troop are girl-led with safety and feasibility kept in mind by all members. Girls, parents and troop volunteers should be consulted in the decision-making process. Please note that all Girl Scout event insurance will remain in effect as before to cover injuries resulting from an accident. Insurance does not cover healthcare costs from illness.

The **Guidelines for In-Person Girl Scout Activity** plan:

1. Based on up to date information available to our council
2. Mitigates risk of infection spread during in-person activities
3. Protects the most vulnerable
4. Implementable statewide or by county

## **General Hygiene Guidance for All Members**

- Continue to adhere to state, local and CDC guidance to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>).
- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items/surfaces or placing your hands near your mouth.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow. Tissues should be disposed of immediately.
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
- Use face coverings/masks.
- Members who feel sick should stay at home.

## **Guidelines for COVID-19 Member Exposure**

- Any member who tests positive for COVID-19 may not return to in-person activities without a doctor's note. Members should email [incident@girlscoutsdiamonds.org](mailto:incident@girlscoutsdiamonds.org) if they test positive for COVID-19 to inform the council of exposure so that the council can work privately with the Centers for Disease Control to enact contact tracing.

## **Guidelines for COVID-19 Members Exposure (cont.)**

- Any member who has been exposed to COVID-19 must self-isolate for 14 days during which time they may not attend any in-person Girl Scout activities. Members who are exposed to COVID-19 should email [incident@girlscoutsdiamonds.org](mailto:incident@girlscoutsdiamonds.org) to inform the council of exposure so that the council can work privately with the Centers for Disease Control to enact contact tracing.
- All vulnerable individuals or members of households with vulnerable individuals should consider not attending in-person activities.

## **Member Guidance for In-Person Meetings**

The following member guidance should be followed at all in-person events. Consider setting up a table or station at the entryway to the in-person event to screen all entering members, check for masks and complete hand sanitization.

**Pre-screen:** The below pre-screening tools must be completed on all members, including leaders, at the event entry point prior to entering a Girl Scout in-person activity. All member information should be kept confidential. No given information should be written down or recorded.

### **Temperature Check (Strongly Recommended)**

Leaders should complete temperature checks at an entry point before any member is admitted to an in-person event. A no-contact thermometer is recommended in order to take temperatures without touching bodily fluids and should be sanitized between uses. The CDC considers a person to have a fever when they have a measured temperature of at least 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit. Any member with a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit may not be admitted into the meeting. Due to thermometer shortages, screening questions may be used in lieu of access to a thermometer. Temperatures of members should not be written down or share with other members.

### **Screening Questions (Mandatory)**

Leaders should ask verbal screening questions at an entry point before any member is admitted to an in-person event. Members who answer “yes” to any one question on the screening checklist should not be admitted to the meeting. Results of the pre-screening outcomes are not public information and should never be written down. The COVID-19 Screening Checklist for In-Person Meeting can be found at the bottom of this document.

## **Attendance**

Attendance of all members should be taken at every in-person activity and kept on record with the leader in case information is needed for contact tracing. Only Girl Scout members who have passed pre-screening should be present. Non-members should not be attending in-person meetings.

## **Transportation**

Because proper social distancing cannot be maintained between members of different households within transportation vehicles, Girl Scouts must have personal transportation to and from meetings. Members should not carpool to and from meetings at this time.

## **Meals and Snacks**

Meals and snacks should not be provided for members at in-person activities at this time. Members may bring food items from home to a meeting or activity. Food items should not be shared and should be stored with the owning member’s belongings until it is time for the food to be consumed. Reusable eating utensils, cups and plates should not be provided for members by troops or service units at this

time at in-person activities. Handwashing should occur before the meal and after the meal with all food items being disposed of immediately, surfaces disinfected with wipes, and all reusable packaging put away. Proper social distancing of six feet between members should be observed during eating times.

### **Face Masks**

All Girl Scout members should wear face masks that cover their mouth and nose during meeting times for the protection of each other. Members should not at any time be pressured to remove their face coverings. Consider keeping extra face masks on hand for members who do not have one. Face masks should never be shared by members. Face masks should go home with members at the end of every meeting to be sanitized or discarded before the next Girl Scout event. Members who have a disability, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), that may also limit the ability to wear a mask should be excused from this recommendation as long as all other screening criteria are met.

### **Social Distancing**

A social distance of six feet between members should be respected at all times. Consider creating troop hand signals to replace and represent normal activities such as hugs and high fives! Take this opportunity to create fun troop norms that help keep each person safe.

### **Hand Washing/Sanitizing**

Access to hand washing and/or hand sanitizer should be present at each troop meeting. Consider setting up a hand sanitizing station at your Girl Scout event. Hands should be washed/sanitized at the beginning of every meeting and before/after any activity where the hands are near a member's mouth. A container should be present at each event that holds aerosol sanitizing spray such as Lysol and sanitizing wipes. This container should be kept out of the reach of girls at all times. Sanitizing spray and wipes should be used on items, such as tables and door handles, before girls arrive with proper ventilation and after members leave at the close of the in-person event. Items that are exchanged between members should be wiped down. Aerosol sprays should not be used in the presence of girls.

### **Activities**

Badge work and activities that require members to come in close physical contact should be avoided (ex. Leap Frog). The exchange of craft supplies should be avoided. Consider creating activity packs for each member present to avoid these exchanges. While outdoor activities are encouraged, overnight activities are not permissible until Girl Scouts – Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas moves into phase three.

### **Use of Council Meeting Spaces**

Council meeting spaces are currently unavailable for service unit and troop activities through July 31, 2020. The council will provide meeting space availability updates as they become available before July 31, 2020.

# COVID-19 Screening Questions Checklist for In- Person Girl Scout Activity

## **Purpose:**

Verbal screening questions must be asked before any member is admitted to an in-person meeting. Members who answer “yes” to any one question on the screening checklist should not be admitted to the meeting. Results of the pre-screening outcomes are not public information and should never be written down or recorded.

## **Screening Questions:**

- ✓ Have you (for participating volunteers or parents)/has your child (for caregiver/guardians of participating children):
  - a. had a fever of 100.4°F or greater within the last 72 hours?
  - b. had any one or combination of other symptoms of COVID-19 within the last 72 hours? Possible symptoms include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle aches or pain, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.
- ✓ During the previous 14 days, have you (for participating volunteers or parents)/has your child (for caregiver/guardians of participating children):
  - a. been advised to self-isolate or quarantine by a doctor or health authority?
  - b. been in contact with a person who has exhibited any of COVID-19? Possible symptoms include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle aches or pain, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.
  - c. been in contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the previous 14 days?

## **Additional question for volunteers only:**

- ✓ Have you read and understood the COVID-19 Guidelines for In-Person Girl Scout Activity?