

GSOM RETURN TO TROOP ACTIVITIES GUIDANCE & RESOURCES

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 quickly in the community. Volunteers should take all reasonable precautions to limit potential exposure for all members and their families, and to prevent additional community transmission.

Effective June 24, 2020, Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan has established the guidelines below for troops and service units who are ready to meet in person.

- These guidelines are based on measures shared by the State of Michigan as part of the Michigan Safe Start Plan, and are subject to change if state or local conditions change.
- In addition to the protocols below, all Girl Scout policies and procedures must be followed, including [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#), when applicable.
- Troop leaders and families should thoughtfully discuss if they are ready to meet in-person. Caregivers/families who are not yet comfortable with activities in-person should be provided a way to stay connected to the troop.
- In-person troop meetings are not required. Each troop/family should weigh their participation based on their own health concerns and tolerance for risk. Members and troops who prefer to continue with virtual meetings and activities may continue to do so. Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan will not penalize any girls or volunteers who prefer to meet virtually.
- We have created a resource that can help with providing virtual experiences for girls. [This document](#) provides an outline of several virtual platforms that can be used to facilitate troop interaction virtually. Be sure to check out [Camp Reimagined](#) for virtual camp experiences.

BEFORE TROOP ACTIVITIES

Stay Safe Best Practices

{Requirements}

- Operate under reduced capacity when indoors. Per CDC and [local guidelines](#), gatherings shall consist of not more than ten individuals (minimum of two adults must be present at all times).
- Families shall assess symptoms before attending troop related activities. Any individual with a temperature of 100.4 or higher cannot attend.
- Sanitize all surfaces, tools and equipment before usage.

Extra Safe

{Recommendations}

- The best meeting locations are large outdoor spaces, where social distancing can be maintained.
- Participants shall ride to and from troop related activities in vehicles with members of their household. At this time, please refrain from ridesharing.

Additional Resources

[Safety Activity Checkpoints](#)

[Current State Guidelines](#)

[Host Successful Virtual Troop Meetings](#)

[Camp Reimagined](#)

[Resource Appendix](#)

DURING TROOP ACTIVITIES

Stay Safe Best Practices

{Requirements}

- Maintain a 6-foot social distance between individuals. Use hula hoops, chalk circles or jump ropes to indicate 6 foot markers. – separate
- Attendees will wash hands upon arrival and departure. If a handwashing station is not available, hand sanitizer should be provided.
- Troops should avoid physical contact. Suggest girls create their own “touch-free” ways to acknowledge one another (ex. Air High 5s, Toe Taps, or fun little dances).
- Invite girls to bring along their own personally labeled water bottles to troop activities.
- Serve prepackaged food, and using gloves when serving food is necessary.
- Consider inviting girls to bring their own “pencil bag” from home with crayons, scissors, gluestick, pens to avoid shared materials concerns.
- Immediately isolate and seek medical care for any individual who develops symptoms while participating in a troop activity.

Extra Safe

{Recommendations}

- Troop leaders have a touchless thermometer to check temperature of participants when arriving and leaving.
- All participants should wear a mask or cloth face covering when not actively participating in physical activities
- Girls should limit the items brought from home. Any items brought should remain in the girls’ backpacks. No items should be shared.
- Include a certified CPR/First Aid adult member for each troop activity.

Additional Resources

[Handwashing Reminder Posters](#)

[Resource AppendixR](#)

AFTER TROOP ACTIVITIES

Stay Safe Best Practices

{Requirements}

- Sanitize all surfaces, tools and equipment after usage.
- Leaders should maintain a complete list of attendees at each troop activity. Include the date, location, event start and end times.
- Leaders immediately should submit a written [Incident Report](#) to GSHOM [Help Desk](#) upon notification of a COVID-19 positive test result or risk of potential exposure.
 - **GSHOM staff will:**
 - **Notify all families** involved (without divulging identity of exposure risk)
 - Complete risk assessment
 - Alert the local health department

• Extra Safe

{Recommendations}

- Keep an open dialogue with families about current conditions and evaluate interest to meet in person.

Additional Resources

[Incident Report](#)
[Resource Appendix](#)

The safety and welfare of our girls, volunteers, parents, and staff is a top priority for Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan. We've heard the concerns from our communities, families, and volunteers about the spread of COVID-19 in our state. Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan is closely monitoring the COVID-19 updates from the Centers for Disease Control, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and local health departments. As leaders of courage, confidence and character, we will continue to be actively vigilant as we work together to make our world a better, safer place.

Resource Appendix

Safety Activity Checkpoints	www.gshom.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gshom/documents/health-and-safety/2020%20Safety%20Activity%20Checkpoints.pdf
Camp Reimagined	www.gshom.org/en/camp/camp-reimagined.html
Current State of MI Guidelines	www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/
Host Successful Virtual Troop Meetings	www.gshom.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gshom/documents/troop-documents/How%20to%20Host%20a%20Virtual%20Troop%20Meeting.pdf
Handwashing Reminder Posters	https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/posters.html
Incident Report	https://www.gshom.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gshom/documents/health-and-safety/7-24-2015%20FINAL%20FILLABLE%20incident%20accident%20report.pdf
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