



COVID-19 Travel Update Frequently Asked Questions for Volunteers

General

Where can the council's COVID-19 guidelines be found?

Please visit our [COVID-19 Updates](#) page for the latest edition of [Girl Scouts Together](#)—your one-stop-shop for information on Girl Scouting during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Troop Travel

Q: If a troop or patrol is hoping to do a short-term overnight and extended travel, does the council have any guidance/restrictions on where they can go?

A: Yes—troops/patrols may plan trips for no more than 200 miles outside of the council's border. Rates of infection, quarantining before and after trip, and requirements for COVID-19 testing and vaccines vary by state and venue. Troops/patrols are expected to research and plan to meet all safety requirements. Remember that all trips must also be pre-approved by council staff (or the travel coordinator). Please note that no international travel is permitted for 2021, but troops may plan for overseas travel in 2022. For more details please see [Girl Scouts Together](#).

COVID-19 Safety Requirements

Q: What are the travel restrictions set in place by Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington for short-term overnight and extended travel?

A: The council follows the guidance of the Oregon Department of Education, the Oregon Health Authority, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). At this time, members may still travel following the guidance of the CDC. As of Monday, October 4, 2021, the CDC has recommended that anyone not vaccinated

should delay travel. However, members who wish to travel must complete the following steps depending on their vaccination status.

Q: If a member is not vaccinated and wishes to travel on a short-term overnight or extended travel trip, what steps should they complete?

A: Anyone who is unvaccinated must follow the steps below provided by the CDC:

- **Before traveling:**
 - Get tested with a [viral test](#) 1-3 days before your trip. Proof of the negative test must be submitted via email to answers@girlscoutsw.org and copied to the troop leader before the trip.
- **While traveling:**
 - Wearing a mask over their nose and mouth is required on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and while indoors at U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations. Travelers are not required to wear a mask in outdoor areas of a conveyance (like on open deck areas of a ferry or the uncovered top deck of a bus). CDC recommends that travelers who are not fully vaccinated continue to wear a mask and maintain physical distance when traveling.
 - Avoid crowds and stay at least 6 feet/2 meters (about 2 arm lengths) from anyone who is not traveling with them.
 - Wash their hands often or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol).
- **After traveling:**
 - Get tested with a [viral test](#) 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel. Even if the test is negative, they should stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days. If the test is positive, they must isolate themselves to protect others from getting infected.
 - If they don't get tested, they must stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.
 - Avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 14 days, whether tested or not.
 - Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if they develop symptoms.
 - Follow all state and local recommendations or requirements.

Q: If a member is vaccinated and wishes to travel on a short-term overnight or extended travel trip, what steps should they complete?

A: Any member who is vaccinated will need to provide a copy of their vaccination card with the troop travel paperwork that is sent to council staff (or travel coordinator). Once a vaccination card is on file another copy will not need to be sent unless a booster or some other change happens to that member's vaccination status.

Q: What if a member wishes to take a day trip?

A: Procedures for day trips are not changing. Please continue to follow the guidelines listed on Page 15 of [*Girl Scouts Together*](#).

Supporting Caregivers and Parents

Q: Other than answers@girlscoutsosw.org, are there other communication avenues for members to connect with council staff?

A: Currently, emailing answers@girlscoutsosw.org is the best approach for members to receive an appropriate response from council staff. However, members are also welcome to call 800-338-5248 for assistance.

Q: When should members expect a response from answers@girlscoutsosw.org?

A: Members can expect to receive a response Monday-Saturday in the order their email inquiry was received. Please note that the council receives multiple inquiries daily on different topics and works as quickly as possible to respond to and answer all inquiries. Rest assured that the council also monitors for sensitive inquiries that require an immediate response. Overall response time may vary, but know that a council staff person will absolutely be in contact with the member as soon as they can.

Q: What is a volunteer's responsibility in communicating the council's new travel updates for short-term overnight and extended travel?

A: Volunteers should continue to assist members interested in traveling by informing them of the council's new travel paperwork and procedures which are guided by the Oregon Department of Education, the Oregon Health Authority, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Should volunteers receive any challenging questions, comments, or concerns, they are asked to please direct members to answers@girlscoutsosw.org and a staff member will follow-up with an appropriate response.

Q: How should volunteers communicate new travel changes due to COVID-19?

A: Informing members about the council's new changes in travel paperwork and procedures due to COVID-19 can be a delicate conversation. Volunteers are encouraged

to ONLY guide members in travel paperwork and procedures and should not feel compelled to justify travel changes. Note that all travel changes are guided by the Oregon Department of Education, the Oregon Health Authority, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Should volunteers receive any challenging questions, comments, or concerns, they are asked to please direct members to answers@girlscoutsw.org and a staff member will follow-up with an appropriate response.

Q: How should a volunteer handle challenging questions, comments, or concerns regarding changes in travel paperwork and procedures due to COVID-19?

A: Should challenging and/or non-cooperative conversations arise from a member, please listen empathetically to their concerns and direct them to answers@girlscoutsw.org. A staff member will follow-up with an appropriate response. In scenarios such as these, volunteers should not feel responsible for creating solutions or taking on difficult topics. The responsibility lies with council staff to support members in this transition.

Q: How many times will there be changes in travel paperwork and procedures?

A: At this time, the council continues to follow the guidance of the Oregon Department of Education, the Oregon Health Authority, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and will keep members updated accordingly as changes occur.

Q: Why has Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington changed its travel procedures for short-term overnight and extended travel?

A: The decision to change any policy or practice at Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington is not made lightly. Council staff discuss the issues at hand and work together to give guidance that is informed by local, state and national authorities.

The states of Oregon and Washington's health authorities both defer to the CDC travel guidance as the accepted travel requirements for their residents. As such, members are also asked to follow this guidance while participating in Girl Scout activities.

The CDC guidance provides different conditions for safe travel based on a person's vaccination status and allows for a person, regardless of vaccination status, to travel. The council believes that the CDC guidance provides a pathway for everyone without restricting people in good health from having that option. The council will not be reversing the procedure at this time.