



# Girl Scouts Together *Simplified*

Updated October 12, 2022

## Let's Make Life Simpler

As COVID-19 guidance from public health authorities has eased, Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington has condensed guidance for Girl Scout families and volunteers into a simplified version of *Girl Scouts Together*. As with previous editions, this guide is informed by guidance from the CDC, the Oregon Health Authority, and Oregon's "Ready Schools, Safe Learners" resource. *Girl Scouts Together* is intended to be used in conjunction with *Safety Activity Checkpoints*, *Volunteer Essentials*, and all other regular guidelines for Girl Scout activities.

*Girl Scouts Together* will continue to be reviewed and updated as needed on a two week schedule. New or changed sections since the last edition are identified by **highlighted text**. The most current version will always be available at [girlscoutsosw.org/covid-19](https://girlscoutsosw.org/covid-19).

**Have a question or need support?** Contact us at [answers@girlscoutsosw.org](mailto:answers@girlscoutsosw.org).

## Quick Reference

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## Meeting as a Troop or Group

This guidance applies to all Girl Scout troop or group activities, including volunteer meetings. All members of your troop/group must follow all state and municipal health and safety guidelines, and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It is your responsibility to stay up-to-date and follow all current guidelines. In the case that GSOSW's guidelines differ from state and local health guidance, please follow whichever guideline is most rigorous. In order to meet in-person, your troop/group must commit to immediately complying with changes.

Consider how you will include and accommodate girls and families who are unable or choose not to meet in person at this time, such as through a virtual attendance option.

**Assumption of risk.** All girl and adult participants in in-person troop or group meetings and activities must complete *GSOSW's Assumption of Risk, Release and Waiver of Liability Relating to Coronavirus/COVID-19*. This form can be completed online.

**Written attendance record.** It is no longer required to take a written attendance record at Girl Scout meetings or activities.

**Meeting space.** For meetings held at public facilities, contact the facility ahead and ask:

- Is this facility/space currently open to the public?
- Does the facility require face coverings?
- 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 space cleaned between groups?

Girl Scout troops/groups may meet in private homes with permission from all household members. Homeowners may require the use of face coverings and all individuals may choose to wear a face covering if desired.

**Adult-to-girl ratios.** Follow adult-to-girl ratios as stated in the most current edition of *Volunteer Essentials*. When possible, it is recommended that people be grouped into stable cohorts to reduce the opportunity for transmission. Cohorts should be as small as feasible.

**Face Coverings.** As of March 12, 2022, girl and adult participants at all Girl Scout activities are not required to wear face coverings, regardless of vaccination status. GSOSW supports individual or troop/group decisions to wear face coverings if desired. It is recommended that members carry face coverings with them at all times when participating in Girl Scout activities, in the event that a business or venue requires the use of face coverings to enter. Girls can bring their own face coverings. Have disposable face coverings on hand for those who need them. Volunteers can teach girls how to handle their face coverings so that the coverings are



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effective. In situations where face coverings are required, volunteers should remind girls that Girl Scouts wear face coverings not only to protect themselves but to protect others—they are a civic responsibility and a sign of caring for the community.

**Everyday prevention.** Remind girls and volunteers to engage in everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, including:

- 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 them.

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 (100.4 °F, per the CDC). Members with a fever should skip the in-person gathering until their temperature is normal.

**Vaccination and testing.** At this time, proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test is only required for extended travel (see Pages 5-6) and GSOSW overnight camp programs. Vaccination or a negative test are not currently required for other Girl Scout activities, such as troop meetings, short-term overnight travel, adult trainings, Girl Scout product program participation, etc.

## If You're Not Ready to Meet

Not ready to meet? That's okay! Troops/groups who choose not to meet in person are encouraged to make use of at-home Girl Scout program and virtual meeting tools offered by [Girl Scouts of the USA](#) and [GSOSW](#), as well as the [Troop Leader Blueprint](#).

**Virtual meetings.** Meeting options may need to be flexible based on the fluid nature of COVID-19 risk. Troops able to run online meetings as needed/wanted should do so. Girl Scouts of the USA recommends maintaining a virtual to in-person ratio of at least 20/80, which means to maintain virtual troop meetings at least 20% of the time to keep tech skills and virtual meeting habits fresh. Use [Safety Activity Checkpoints for Virtual Meetings](#) (Page 94) to guide your plans.



## Transportation

**Carpooling.** Carpooling is permitted.

**Public transportation.** Public transportation (including paid ride-share) may be utilized. Troops/groups should follow CDC guidance for public transportation. We recommend that you “know before you go” when travelling and check the requirements for the transportation services and hubs you plan to utilize.

## Day Trips, Overnight and Extended Travel

**Overnight troop travel is allowed.** Review travel information below, and assess and consider local state and county health and safety guidance for all areas that the trip will include. Note that all in-person troop/group meeting guidelines also apply to all types of travel.

**Extended travel.** Proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test is no longer required prior to travel. Keep in mind transportation requirements, and health and safety restrictions in the places you will be traveling through as well as the final destination.

**Be prepared for travel.** Call ahead to the facility or vendor to confirm that they are following CDC and state health department guidelines and to determine if they are requiring face coverings. 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 necessary. For example, bring extra sanitizer in case none is provided for public use at the activity location.

Personal homes may be used for in-person troop activities or overnight accommodations. Note that homeowners may require the use of face coverings and all individuals may choose to wear a face covering if desired.

Prepare before you go by checking travel restrictions where you are, along your route, and at your final destination. Keep in mind transportation requirements, access to resources such as bathrooms and food, follow all health and safety guidance, and apply all of the same guidelines that apply to troop/group meetings. Prepare to be flexible during your trip as restrictions and policies may change during your travel.

## Reporting Procedure

In the event that you are notified of a positive COVID-19 test result from a Girl Scout activity, contact tracing and reporting are no longer required.



## Resources

### **State of Oregon**

[COVID-19 Resources for Oregonians](#)

[Summer and Youth Programs Public Health Recommendations \(6/10/22\)](#)

[Face Covering Recommendations \(5/12/22\)](#)

### **State of Washington**

[Washington State Coronavirus Response](#)

[Face Covering Recommendations \(4/19/22\)](#)

### **CDC**

[Facts About the Coronavirus](#)

[How to Protect Yourself & Others](#)

### **Red Cross**

[General Guidance for Preventing COVID-19 Transmission During CPR and First Aid](#)