



COVID-19 RESPONSE GUIDELINE UPDATES

1.28.2021

The below information was updated in the GSEM COVID-19 Response Guidelines dated 1.28.2021. The information below and the guidelines dated 1.28.2021 supersede all previous editions of the GSEM COVID-19 Response Guidelines.

Page 11 – “Overnights & Travel” has been updated to address the anticipated resumption of troop travel.

While travel is not currently permitted for GSEM members beyond overnight activities as listed above, troop travel has an anticipated resumption date of May 1, 2021. GSEM will continue to monitor the state of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as guidance from GSUSA, the CDC and St. Louis County, and may modify this guidance and permitted activities as circumstances change. Troop travel will be approved on a case-by-case basis, considering several factors including health and safety guidance for both our area and the destination.

All GSEM COVID-19 guidelines should be followed while traveling—in particular, the guidance as outlined in the “Camp Protocol” chapter of this document, including, but not limited to, guidance for Initial and Continued Screening, Face Coverings, Hand Washing, Use Social Distancing and Sleeping Arrangements. If any guidelines at your stops/destinations are more restrictive, follow the local restrictions. It is the responsibility of the trip leader to know what the local restrictions are at the troop’s stops and destinations.

The troop should not make any non-cancelable or non-refundable arrangements or payments for transportation, accommodations, activities, etc., until the trip receives final approval. Even after receiving approval from GSEM, contingencies for rescheduling or canceling, as well as knowledge of the cancellation and refund policies of the vendors the troop plans to utilize, should always be considered, recognizing that the risk posed by COVID-19 is fluid and may force a change in plans. Additionally, it is recommended that the trip leader clearly communicate with troop members any important dates or deadlines by which members are expected to make a firm commitment to the troop’s travel plans.

As always, participants must follow the guidance in *Safety Activity Checkpoints* and continue to practice the Hygiene and COVID-19 Risk Mitigation, Transportation and group size guidance outlined in the most recent release of this document for the foreseeable future.

All troop travel must be approved by Council. To review what is required for troop travel approval, or to begin planning a trip to depart on or after May 1, please visit [GSEM’s Travel page](#). If your troop plans to travel, please submit your Troop Trip Application to Senior Manager of Risk Management, Jen Robertson, jrobertson@girlscoutsem.org, at least six months prior to your departure date if domestic or 18 months prior to your departure date if international. If your departure date is less than six months away (i.e. your troop plans to travel in May, June or July 2021) and you have not yet submitted an application, please do so by February 15.

Pages 38– Booth Protocol has been updated to include up to four girls and three adults for larger, drive-thru cookie booths (that have more than one station)

Due to the space generally allotted for booths and social distancing guidelines, it will be necessary to reduce the number of people at each booth. No more than two (2) Girl Scouts and two (2) Adult Volunteers (two are required) should be at booths. Troops can schedule shifts to give all girls (and adult volunteers) the opportunity to participate in booths. Larger, drive-thru cookie booths (more than one station) are permitted to have up to four girls and three adults.