



COVID-19 RESPONSE GUIDELINE UPDATES

10.22.2020

The below information was updated in the GSEM COVID-19 Response Guidelines dated 10.22.2020. The information below and the guidelines dated 10.22.2020 supersede all previous editions of the GSEM COVID-19 Response Guidelines.

Pages 7-8 – The below guideline about Troop Meetings in the Home was updated to permit meetings in the home when COVID-19 Response Guidelines are followed and all criteria are met:

Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri suggests meetings not take place in the home out of concern that there would be greater risk of exposure to other family members, such as the elderly or those who are immune-compromised. Troops should consider meeting virtually, outdoors (weather permitting) or at places local to the community such as parks, churches, community centers or libraries.

However, when other options are either difficult to utilize or entirely unavailable, meetings in the home are permitted. As a reminder, all GSEM COVID-19 Response Guidelines must still be followed when meeting in a home. Please take special care to ensure all participants wear masks when indoors, keep a social distance of at least six feet and follow Hygiene and Risk Mitigation guidance.

When meeting in a home, the below guidelines should be followed:

- The home must be the residence of a registered, background-checked and approved volunteer.
- Girls may not meet in a home where a registered sex offender lives.
- The proper girl-to-adult ratio must be met, and girls must be supervised.
- Girls should be able to focus without disruptions from other household members.
- Animals should be kept in a place separate from the meeting space.
- The home should be safe, clean, large enough to allow for the participation of the whole group, have access to restrooms and be able to accommodate girls and volunteers with allergies and/or disabilities.
- The home should be appropriately insured. GSEM's liability insurance provides coverage for volunteers who hold meetings in their homes, but GSEM's property/casualty insurance does not cover volunteers' homes nor personal property.
- Smoking, including e-cigarettes, drinking or being under the influence of alcohol, and non-medicinal drugs and controlled substances are prohibited.
- Weapons must be completely out of view and stored in a locked space.
- Medication, dangerous cleaning products or any poisonous substance must be stored in a secure space out of sight, preferably locked.

Page 11 – The below guideline about Overnights & Travel was updated to permit certain overnight activities off Council property when COVID-19 Response Guidelines are followed and all regular Girl Scout criteria for overnights are met:

Girl Scouts are permitted to participate in some overnight activities of no more than two nights within Council boundaries. This includes:

- Overnight activities on Council property, such as troop camp at one of GSEM’s camps.
- Backyard camping and non-camping local overnights at locations such as YMCAs, churches, schools or leaders’ homes. No application is needed, but you should inform your neighborhood manager.
- Camping at non-Council-owned sites. Council approval is required. Please complete an [Application for All Camping on Non-Council-Owned Sites](#) and email it to Senior Manager of Troop, Day and Outdoor Adventure Programs, Melissa Niedermann, mniedermann@girlscoutsem.org. Applications must be submitted at least one month prior to departure.

For all overnights, follow 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, Sleeping Arrangements and Troop Camping Meals.

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.

Except for overnights as listed above, troop travel is not permitted until after St Louis County is successfully past its final phase of reopening. Once this phase is reached, GSEM will proceed cautiously to resume approving troop travel on a case-by-case basis, considering several factors including health and safety guidance for both our area and the destination, recognizing that the risk posed by COVID-19 is fluid and contingencies for rescheduling or canceling should always be considered. To review what is required for troop travel approval, or to begin planning a trip for after troop travel resumes, please visit Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri’s [Travel](#) page, and contact Senior Manager of Risk Management, Jen Robertson, jrobertson@girlscoutsem.org, if you have any questions or wish to discuss troop travel.

Page 46 – #7 on the COVID-19 Protocol Checklist was updated to reflect the changes to Troop Meetings in the Home.