



## Troop Camping during COVID-19

Updated 4/19/2021

Each member, volunteer and family should always evaluate their own unique circumstances before making an informed decision about whether or not to participate in any in-person activities. Precautions and strategies are important but cannot guarantee the elimination of the potential for exposure to COVID-19 or other illness while participating in in-person activities.

Before embarking on any in-person activities, please familiarize yourself with the latest guidelines from ALL of the following:

**GSCTX:** <https://www.gsctx.org/en/for-volunteers/troop-planning-resources/covid-19-meeting-guidelines.html>

**CDC:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/index.html>

**State of Texas:** <https://open.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Youth-Club-Participants.pdf>

**Austin/Travis County:** (or your local governing agency)  
<https://www.traviscountytx.gov/news/2020/1945-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-information>

### Camping Specific Guidelines:

- If tent camping, each girl should have her own tent, or be in a tent only with those from her immediate household.
- If cabin camping, girls should sleep 6 ft. apart (when possible), in every other bunk, or alternating head to toe.
- Each person should bring their own supplies (mess kit, hand sanitizer, toothpaste, flashlight, sunscreen, etc.). There should be no sharing of any items. If sharing of items cannot be avoided, such as craft supplies for example, items should be sanitized by an adult between every use.
- Bring plenty of sanitizing wipes and/or cleaning supplies so that all shared bathroom, food prep or other surfaces can be sanitized between uses.
- Limit the number of girls in shared spaces at one time (such as restrooms). Instead, send them in buddy pairs.

- Ensure there are sufficient hand washing opportunities available. Touch free is preferred but not required. Bring extra soap just in case. Multiple hand washing stations are helpful.
- Prepackaged food and snacks, or individual pre-prepared meals made at home are preferred when possible. When meals must be prepared at the campsite, extra precautions should be taken. Adults should do as much of the prep-work and serving as possible. Everyone involved in preparing or serving should wear gloves. Separate utensils should be used for each item of food. Hands should never be used to serve (for example: a big bag of chips and girls just reach in and grab some). Sufficient hand washing facilities must be available if food is to be prepared.
- All participants should do their best to put themselves at minimal risk of exposure for at least a week prior to the campout and ensure they are symptom free.
- Ensure current Health History information is collected from each participant and pre-screening procedures are enforced before event. Your designated First Aider is a good person for this role.
- Minimize the use of fans or other devices that stir the air while using indoor spaces.

## General Guidelines:

- These safety guidelines must be provided to all participants, volunteers, and the caregiver/guardians of all girl participants before the in-person event takes place.
- GSCTX is incredibly grateful for the support of our volunteers and caregivers. Given state protocols and CDC information, GSCTX encourages individuals who may be more susceptible or at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19 (including **individuals age 65 and older** or those with **serious underlying health conditions**) to carefully consider and weigh all risks when deciding whether participating through in-person meetings is appropriate at this time.
- Before attending, all volunteers must read these two sets of guidelines on **appropriate cleaning and disinfection** and **hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette**.
- One volunteer must be assigned to ask and document the responses to the screening checklist of all participants upon arrival. Use the **log provided here**. This record must be kept confidentially with health forms and permission slips. This volunteer must serve as the point of notification for any post-meeting incident of a communicable disease. **Upon notice, this volunteer must contact GSCTX at covidcare@gsectx.org to receive explicit guidance before notifying any other participants.**
- Participants should follow all specific rules or guidelines of the in-person location or host site. In some cases, restroom facilities may not be available. **It is strongly encouraged to stay outdoors whenever possible.**
- If a girl, parent/caregiver, or volunteer (or member of their household) is showing **signs or symptoms** of possible COVID-19 or has been in close contact with someone confirmed to have COVID-19, they are not permitted to attend in-person events or gatherings until they are either: cleared by a medical professional, it has been 72-hours since signs or symptoms (without the use of fever-reducing medication), or it has been 14 days since the last date of a confirmed exposure to COVID-19.

## Gathering Guidelines:

- Gatherings should be limited to no more than 30 individuals, including girls, parents, and volunteers. Volunteer-to-girl ratio must meet the minimum standard for program level. Girl participants must be currently registered Girl Scout members or in the process of joining Girl Scouts.
- The gathering site should be cleaned and disinfected by adults, [following CDC guidelines](#), before and after the event. Regularly and frequently clean and disinfect any regularly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, and restrooms. Ensure sufficient on-site access to handwashing/sanitization, gloves, and disinfecting supplies for the gathering.
- All participants must wash or sanitize their hands upon entering the gathering site.
- During the event, all participants should maintain physical distancing of 6 feet between members of different households. When sitting at tables, participants should try to all face one way and/or only sit on one-side of the table.
- In light of [CDC recommendations](#) and GSUSA guidelines, GSCTX requires all participants to wear face coverings (masks).
- Other measures such as hand hygiene, cough/sneeze etiquette, cleanliness, sanitizing, and reduction of shared tools and supplies should also be practiced. If supplies or equipment need to be shared, they must be cleaned by an adult between uses.
- Gatherings should include training of participants on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
- When transporting girls for an event or outing, carpooling is an option if the driver and passengers can be spaced out, masks are worn, and windows are opened for proper ventilation. If the vehicle is full of passengers, the driver and passengers should be from a single household.
- If providing a beverage, snack, or meal, food and drinks should be individually and commercially wrapped and distributed by an adult, not served family or buffet style whenever possible. Food and beverages offered at Girl Scout events should not be homemade or home prepared at his time. Bulk purchased items that are then prepared, individually portioned/wrapped, or distributed by an adult wearing gloves on site is acceptable. Beverages should be served and refilled by an adult wearing gloves. Girls should be encouraged to bring their own water bottles.
- These guidelines will be adjusted and updated as additional recommendations and protocols are released.

## Other Helpful Resources:

**Leave No Trace** recommendations:

<https://lnt.org/the-leave-no-trace-recommendations-for-getting-outside-amidst-covid-19/>

**Texas Parks and Wildlife** recommendations:

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/park-information/keeping-you-healthy#:~:text=Most%20parks%20are%20open%20for,and%20equipment%20rentals%20and%20loans.>



**BE INFORMED:**

**Know Your Risk During COVID-19**

*On a scale of 1 to 10, how risky is...*

*Ranked by physicians from the TMA COVID-19 Task Force and the TMA Committee on Infectious Diseases*



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