

COVID-19 In-Person Troop Meeting Guidelines

Welcome to a new Girl Scout year! As Girl Scouting continues amid the challenges of COVID-19, our health and safety guidelines have adapted. Please read over these in-person troop meeting guidelines before meeting with your troop to make sure that you can keep your troop safe while still having fun. Please contact the Council with any questions.

Planning Your First Meeting

1. *Check the Council website homepage to make sure in-person meetings are allowed.*
2. Discuss with your troop families and decide as a group about meeting virtually and/or in-person (when it is safe to do so). Make arrangements, if feasible, for families who do not feel comfortable meeting in-person by having a computer set up to have troop members join you virtually.
3. Find a location that is safe and meets all our Council's health and safety guidelines. Fill out the appropriate paperwork to confirm that your meeting location is safe, including photos of the space and perhaps a Council visit to the site. Outdoor spaces are highly encouraged for in-person meetings until it gets too cold to do so.
4. Have a family meeting to clearly review the new safety guidelines with parents/guardians to keep troop members safe (i.e. washing hands more often, using hand sanitizer before coming into the meeting space, wearing a mask at all time, sitting 6 feet apart...etc.). Ask parents/guardians to communicate with girls about the safety guidelines they can expect to see at their meetings.
5. Prepare your troop's space for social distancing and sanitizing.

Rules for In-Person Troop Meetings

Inform families that if girls are sick or have any COVID-19 symptoms that they are to stay home. Parents should check girls' temperatures before coming to a troop meeting.

1. **Transporting Girl Scouts**
 - Carpooling and public transportation to the meeting is prohibited. All girls need to be transported by a parent/guardian.
2. **Snack**
 - It is not recommended that snacks or food be served at Girl Scout meetings or activities. If deemed necessary to serve, only pre-packaged, individual serving food items should be used.
 - Encourage members to bring their own individual snack or food item. Always follow hygiene safety guidelines.
3. **Troop Meeting Activities**
 - Girls should be spaced at least 6 feet apart with clearly marked designated spots.
 - All troop members and their parents/guardians present must wear face masks. Removal of masks can only occur when girls are seated for an activity or snack at least 6 feet apart.
 - Find creative ways to incorporate Girl Scout traditions and activities with your troop to maintain certain aspects of normalcy. (i.e. bring a stuffed animal to hold during the Friendship Circle.)
 - Girls should not share troop supplies, and all troop supplies must be sanitized after each use. Encourage girls to bring their own supplies by communicating needed supplies at every meeting.
 - All people attending meetings must be registered members of Girl Scouts.
4. **Hygiene and COVID-19 Risk Mitigation – Applies to everyone present at a troop meeting**

- Stay home if you are sick or have a temperature.
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow or into a tissue, throw the tissue in the trash, and wash or sanitize your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Wash hands if you do touch.
- 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.
- Always cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face mask in a troop meeting. Remind girls that Girl Scouts wear face masks not only to protect themselves but to protect others and be a sister to every Girl Scout. Girls can bring their own face coverings.
- Use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting the meeting.

5. Extra Items to Have on Hand at All In-Person Troop Meetings

- Disposable face masks
- Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
- Tissues
- Disinfectants

6. What to Do if a Girl Scout has been exposed to, or is showing signs of COVID-19

If a girl, parent/guardian, 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 meetings until they are either:

- Cleared by a medical professional
- It has been 72-hours since signs or symptoms
- It has been 14 days since the last date of a confirmed exposure to COVID-19

7. What to Do if a Girl Scout, Parent/Guardian, or a Troop Volunteer Test Positive for COVID-19

In the event of a COVID-19 positive test result, do NOT contact the parents or troop members. Promptly contact the Council in this situation. **A Council staff member** and NOT volunteers, will be responsible for:

- Confirming and tracing the positive tester
- Contacting the parents of anyone who may have been exposed (or other volunteers)
- Notifying a facility or homeowner where a troop has met
- Alerting the state department of health

Remember that girl and volunteer health information is private and strictly confidential and should be only shared on a need to know basis with a Council staff member.

Acknowledgement of Receipt and Understanding

All participants of the Farthest North Girl Scout Council acknowledge that COVID-19 is a contagious virus that spreads through person-to-person contact. As with any social activity, participation in Girl Scouts could present the risk of contracting COVID-19. While our Council takes every safety and preventative precaution, we can in no way guarantee that COVID-19 infection will not occur through participation in Girl Scout activities.