



# Returning to In-Person Troop Meetings and Activities Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore

## COVID-19 Guidance for Volunteers

Edition date: April 4, 2022

From the start of the pandemic, Girl Scouts have proven themselves to be strong community supporters, going above and beyond to keep themselves and others safe. COVID-19 remains an extremely contagious virus that spreads easily in the community. Volunteers should take all reasonable precautions to limit potential exposure for all members and their families, and to prevent additional community transmission.

**Effective April 4, 2022, Girl Scouts Michigan Shore to Shore has established the guidelines below for troops and service units who are meeting in person.**

- These guidelines are based on measures shared by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), the [State of Michigan](#), and Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) and are subject to change.
- All GSMISTS guidelines are in place regardless of vaccination status and must be adhered to whether the individuals involved are vaccinated or not.
- In addition to the guidelines listed, all Girl Scout policies and procedures must be followed, including [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#), when applicable.

## Permission Slips

Prior to resuming in-person troop meetings or activities, an [Annual Permission and Health History Form](#) must be completed and signed by a parent/guardian for each girl who will be participating. The troop leader must retain the permission slips.

## Troop Meeting Capacities

Currently, there are no capacity limits mandated by the State of Michigan.

## Face Coverings

Currently, there are no face covering mandates from the State of Michigan.

## Travel and Overnight Stays

All travel and overnights must be approved by GSMISTS.

- The [Activity/Trip Application](#) for overnights, day trips lasting longer than 8 hours, and high adventure/high risk activity (any activity in [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) that requires GSMISTS approval) needs to be submitted to GSMISTS at least 4 weeks prior to date of overnight/activity.
- The [Activity/Trip Application](#) for extended trips of three (3) or more nights needs to be submitted to GSMISTS at least 6 weeks prior to date of travel.

Review [GSMISTS Activity and Trip Planning Guide](#) for more information.

## Troop Meeting Space

Ludington Little House, Betsy Cutler House, Camp Woodlands, and Camp Anna Behrens are open for troop and service unit use.

Capacity information and reservation link for all facilities is located at <https://www.gsmists.org/en/properties/rental-information.html>.

### **Troop Meetings/Activities at the Home**

GSMISTS allows troops to meet at a volunteer's home if the house has been approved. Review [Guidelines for Girl Scout Meetings/Activities in the Home](#) for more information on obtaining permission for meeting at the home.

### **Reporting and Communicating a Positive COVID-19 Test**

In the event of a COVID-19 positive test result, do not contact the parents or troop members. Promptly contact GSMISTS Manager of HR & Governance, [hr@gsmists.org](mailto:hr@gsmists.org), in this situation. After receiving guidance, the troop leader will be responsible for:

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

Let other volunteers know that the troop leader will notify parents and others about a positive test result and that the tester's identity is confidential. Remember that girl and volunteer health information is private and strictly confidential and should only be shared on a need-to-know basis with a council staff member.

### **Hygiene and COVID-19 Risk Mitigation**

Follow the [resources developed by credible public health sources such as CDC](#) or your local public health department. Share these with girls and volunteers and ensure that they are practiced during meetings and activities. Place signs in the meeting or activity space to remind girls and volunteers to engage in [everyday preventive actions](#) to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Signs should include:

- 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.
- 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 and temperature is a normal 98.6 degrees. Members with fever or temperature higher than 98.6 should skip the in-person gathering until their temperature is normal.

### **First Aid Supplies**

Troop first aid supplies should include COVID-19 prevention items including hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol), tissues, disposable facemasks, and disinfectants. Trash baskets or bags should be supplied for meeting and activity spaces, if not already available. Make sure that the trash baskets (or bags) are easily accessible for girls. Disposable or no-contact thermometers may be added to supplies if available and not

cost prohibitive, however, parents should be checking temperatures and allowing their girl(s) to join group activities only when temperatures are normal.

### **Disinfectants and Disinfecting**

Routinely clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched (i.e., tabletops, markers, scissors, etc.). Use a household disinfectant cleaner or see the [EPA's list of effective cleaners](#) approved for use against COVID-19. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.). See the [CDC's website](#) for more on cleaning and disinfecting community facilities.