

FAQs Regarding COVID-19 Vaccinations

Girl Scouts – North Carolina Coastal Pines

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends everyone 12 years and older, who are able, get a COVID-19 vaccine to help protect against COVID-19 and its spread. Girl Scouts strongly encourages, but does not require, vaccines for all eligible adults and youth. Vaccine status is private health information and the decision to vaccinate or not is highly personal.

Girl Scouts – North Carolina Coastal Pines (GS-NCCP) respects an individual's decision on this subject and encourages everyone to be a sister to every Girl Scout and ensure that everyone feels valued and welcome. A safe practice is for everyone to take precautions and continue to follow health and safety protocols to minimize risk of exposure and spread regardless of vaccination status. Girl Scouts will continue to stay abreast of local, state, national, and CDC regulations and protocols and use that information to inform policies.

Are adults required to have the COVID-19 vaccination to volunteer with Girl Scouts? Are girls required to have the vaccination to participate in Girl Scouts?

Girl Scouts encourages adults and girls who are able, and who qualify, to receive the vaccine; but it is not a requirement to participate in Girl Scouts. Vaccine status is not a requirement for membership.

Can council staff members or volunteers inquire about the vaccination status of volunteers?

Council staff and volunteers should not inquire about a volunteer's vaccination status. Deciding to receive a vaccine is a personal decision and GS-NCCP encourages our staff and members to respect the privacy of fellow members and their families .

Can parents/caregivers ask about the vaccination status of volunteers?

While parents/caregivers may certainly ask, volunteers are under no obligation to disclose their personal vaccination status. Also, under no circumstances should a volunteer discuss the personal healthcare decisions of another volunteer with anyone.

Can parents/caregivers or volunteers ask about the vaccination status of council staff and camp staff?

While parents/caregivers may certainly ask and GS-NCCP encourages all council staff members who can get vaccinated to become vaccinated when the vaccine is available to them, council staff are under no obligation to disclose their personal vaccination status.

Can parents/caregivers ask other parents/caregivers about the vaccination status of girls in the troop or their family members?

Parents/caregivers are certainly free to discuss vaccinations with other parents/caregivers when both parties are open to that conversation. However, parents/caregivers should not feel obligated to share personal medical information if they choose to maintain their privacy in the matter. GS-NCCP encourages parents/caregivers to respect the privacy and personal choices of the girls and other adults in their girl's troop.

As vaccinations for youth/children of varying ages become available, can troop leaders require girls to be vaccinated before they attend in-person activities?

COVID-19 vaccines are not expected to become available for children under 12 until the end of 2021 or later. Vaccination status is not a requirement for membership or participation in Girl Scouts nor should volunteers inquire about vaccination status. Per the prior FAQ, parents/caregivers are certainly free to discuss vaccinations with other parents/caregivers when both parties are open to the conversation. When conducting in-person activities, regardless of known or unknown vaccination status, health and safety protocols should be practiced and local, state, national, and CDC guidance should be followed. Girl Scouts will stay abreast of local and state regulations and the protocols that are practiced in public schools and use that information to inform policies.

Once someone is vaccinated, do they have to continue to practice the safety protocols as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), such as social distancing, washing their hands frequently, and wearing a mask?

For the protection of all members as well as the families and communities we serve, GS-NCCP will continue to practice, and encourage members, volunteers, and families when engaging in Girl Scout activities to practice, CDC-recommended health and safety protocols, regardless of whether or not an individual has received the vaccine. Guidance on face coverings will continue to follow local, state, national, and CDC guidelines. Updates will be reflected on the council's COVID-19 Meter Guidance on the council website, www.nccoastalpines.org.

Can an individual or a troop/group participate in specific activities, travel, or camp where the vendor or program provider requires attendees to be vaccinated (or possibly show proof of vaccination or negative COVID test)?

It is recommended in these scenarios that the participation criteria are communicated and shared in advance or during the planning phase so members/caregivers can evaluate requirements and their ability to meet the criteria. Individual family choice to opt in or opt out should be practiced and followed based on their willingness and/or ability to meet the stated requirements or for other reasons. For troop-related activities, we encourage consideration and selection of activities that promote inclusivity and belonging.