

2021 Safety Activity Checkpoints (SAC)

Important Updates and Changes to Girl Scouts' Safety Activity Checkpoints

These changes will go into effect August 1, 2021.

Safety Activity Checkpoints (SAC) 2021 has been updated to reflect the following material changes. Please thoroughly review this memo to familiarize yourself with the updates and changes. You may direct questions to: outdoorprogram@nccoastalpines.org.

GSUSA's Standard Safety Guidelines (formerly titled, 'Girl Scout Activity Safety Standards and Guidelines)

This section, introduced in the 2018 edition, provides the general safety standards and guidelines that apply to all activities. In 2021, a link was added under each activity chapter to direct volunteers to the Standard Safety Guidelines section at the beginning of the document.

Within the Standard Safety Guidelines, the following updates have been made:

- **Adult Supervision.** Additional emphasis has been added to call out Girl Scouts long-standing rule of *at least two registered and approved, unrelated Girl Scout Volunteers, one of whom is female...*
- **Activities not Listed.** A bullet has been added to remind volunteers that if an activity is not listed in *Safety Activity Checkpoints*, they must consult council staff for prior approval.
- ***NEW* Selecting an Activity to do with Girls.** This section reminds volunteers to be intentional when selecting an activity and encourages volunteers to bring girls into the selection process.
- **Vaccination and Immunization.** A statement addressing the Covid 19 vaccine has been added.
- **Equity.** This section was formerly titled "Equal Treatment for all Girls." A paragraph was added to expand the guidance which alerts volunteers to be mindful of physical and social-emotional disabilities and to further consider the history, culture, and past experiences that could impact all girls to equally participate.
- **Vans designed for 15 passengers.** Text was added to clarify that while these commercial and professionally operated vehicles are permitted, volunteers themselves are not permitted to operate them with girls unless council staff specifically approves the request. However, for the average driver, these vehicles are still considered high risk and therefore not encouraged for volunteers to transport girls.

NOTE: *It is important that all volunteers familiarize themselves with GSUSA's Standard Safety Guidelines and refer to them along with the individual Safety Activity Checkpoint chapter when planning activities.*

New Activities Added!

Individual Safety Activity Checkpoints have been added for two new activities:

- Community Clean-Ups
- Rocketry / Model Rocketry

Updates and Changes to Existing Activities

The following list shares updates and changes to existing Safety Activity Checkpoints:

Travel / Trips

- Added information about public transportation and seating in a checkered manner to provide social distancing during COVID-19.
- Added a reminder that volunteers need to purchase the extra Activity Accident insurance for international travel and other nuances about Activity Accident insurance such as the federal holiday exception to the two night overnight stays (three nights instead of two are covered when it is a federal holiday).
- Added a reminder to read the fine print when purchasing cancellation insurance with an airline because pandemic may be excluded. Broad cancellation insurance is called CFAR (Cancel for Any Reason).
- Added a reminder to have extra money available/accessible as part of a contingency plan for when things do not go as expected, for example: cancelled accommodations, missed trains, or illness which requires quarantine or recuperation.
- Added a reminder to become aware of any necessary quarantine periods necessary for going to or returning home from international or out of state travel.
- Clarified and combined sleeping and bathroom arrangements,

Sailing

Sailing is not recommended for Brownies, but it is permitted. Volunteers need to carefully assess the maturity, decision making skills, progression and experience with small watercraft vessels as well as the type of sailboat being used.

Water vessels

- Added clarification that privately owned powered boats, sailboats, and small watercraft such as canoes are permitted. This is also addressed under the Scuba Diving chapter. Prior editions of SACs did not address the issue of privately owned boats; this provides clarification.
- Added a carbon monoxide warning to the powered boats chapters such as diving, waterskiing & wakeboarding and scuba diving and refers to stern and platform safety.