

## GSWNY COVID-19 Guidance FAQs 10-7-20

**Please see updates in yellow.**

**Q1: My usual meeting space is not currently available, or I'm concerned I won't have access to my usual troop meeting place in the fall.**

**A1:** If you are interested in meeting in-person now and your meeting place is not available, we encourage you to utilize outdoor public spaces such as local parks, and GSWNY properties are currently available for bookings on weekends, and some of our properties are available for troop meetings. Please contact [customercare@gswny.org](mailto:customercare@gswny.org) if you are interested in booking a GSWNY property.

For the fall, we will be working with service units to identify available meeting places, as well as the potential to expand our utilization of GSWNY service centers and properties. We await the decisions from school districts as to whether they will be available as meeting spaces.

In the meanwhile, we encourage you to connect with your meeting place to determine their plans. You may share the GSWNY COVID-19 guidelines with them so they may see the steps Girl Scouts is taking to keep their meeting places safe.

**Q2: If we can maintain social distance (6+ feet), do we have to wear masks? Do we have to wear masks if we are outside?**

**A2:** Yes, our guidelines state that girls and adults must wear masks in addition to social distancing (6+ feet). These guidelines apply in both indoor and outdoor settings.

An exception is when girls and adults may be eating or drinking. Follow social distancing and hygiene practices to create a safe environment in these cases.

**Q3: Does GSWNY offer a medical exemption for masks?**

**A3:** Girls and adults who identify a medical exemption can contact [customercare@gswny.org](mailto:customercare@gswny.org) to request a reasonable accommodation.

**Q4: What should members do about activities/events planned after December 31?**

**A4:** Any meetings or activities after December 31 will be re-evaluated by mid-December. All decisions will be based on NYS guidance, regulation and the data presented. We will host another webinar this fall once those updates have been established. Please stay tuned to Member Essentials every Tuesday for any further announcements.

**Q5: What is the baseline temperature that is considered a fever?**

**A5:** NYS school guidelines updated that any temperature 100 degrees and over should result in members (girl & adults) staying home and not attending any Girl Scout activities.

**Q6: Can we host any meeting or activity at our home?**

**A6:** All Girl Scout activities are prohibited from being facilitated in and at the home, whether inside or in a yard. In an effort to continue to mitigate the risk of the virus, and to ensure girl safety, no home in-person programs or meetings are allowed.

**Q7: Are funds available to assist troops in purchasing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for my Girl Scout Troop?**

**A7:** Yes, PPE purchases are a legitimate troop expense and troops can either use troop funds if available, and GSWNY will also provide financial assistance as this is a new and unexpected necessary expense for troops. In addition, Troop Leaders can request funding to purchase related Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at up to \$100 per troop for reimbursement (Example: thermometers, disposable facemasks, disinfectant, hand sanitizer/solution). Troops larger than 12 members may require more supplies and can note the additions on the form for review.

**Q8: Can you provide guidance on media photos?**

**A8: Media Guidelines:** we understand that families and troops want to take photos to document girls' participation in Girl Scouting and that photos are treasured memories, and also can showcase girls' accomplishments.

Due to the risk of COVID-19, all photos must comply with the above guidelines including wearing masks and social distancing. GSWNY reserves the right to refrain from posting any photos that do not align with safety guidelines, and also remove public photos, including photos submitted by troops and families to local media.

Girls can be documented without masks if they are participating at home, or with members of her family. Girls in photos with other non-family members of the troop must be wearing a mask and social distancing in accordance with GSWNY COVID-19 guidelines.

**Q9: Are there any exceptions?**

**Q9:** One exception is during a ceremony, if a family wishes for a girl to remove her mask for a photo, that is acceptable as long as she is socially distanced from others, and the photo must be of the girl alone, or with family members, and that this is only for a minimal amount of time to take the photo.

Thank you for all that you do, and please contact Customer Care if you have any questions: [customer care@gswny.org](mailto:customer care@gswny.org) or call 1-888-837-6410. In an emergency, please call 1-800-882-9268.