

Safety Activity Checkpoint

Corcl Boats

HIGH-ADVENTURE ACTIVITY: Trip or High-Adventure Approval Form Required
First-Aider and Lifeguard/Trained Water Rescue Required

Council Approval: Required
Activity Permitted For: B J C S A
Not Approved For: Daisies



About Corcl Boats

The Corcl boat is designed specifically for 8- to 15-year-olds to enjoy in flat water: spinning, racing, and having fun at the shore. Corcls offer a great first experience for girls who will progress to other paddle sports. Paddlers can move easily and quickly through the water. The boats feature a 225-pound capacity, an innovative double-hull that is designed for many ways to paddle, and ergonomic handles for easy carrying and transport.

Corcls flip over easily, so paddlers need to be comfortable in the water. Corcls are not to be towed behind a motorized craft and are for use in flat, calm waters only.

Learn More:

- Instructions, tips, and games to use with girls: [corcl.com](https://www.corcl.com)

Making Activities Accessible

In order to make your activity accessible to girls of all abilities, it's important to communicate with all girl attendees and their caregivers to learn about and accommodate their varied support needs. For resources and information on accessible sport and adventure activities, visit [Move United](https://www.moveunited.org).

Additional Resources:

See [Abilities.com](https://www.abilities.com) and [Dream Adaptive](https://www.dreamadaptive.com) for information about inclusion and adaptive equipment for paddlers.

Equity

In addition to physical and social-emotional disabilities, consider the history, culture, and past experiences of the girls in your troop that could affect a girl's ability to equally participate in an activity. Work with girls and families to understand how an activity is perceived. Ensure that all girls and their families feel comfortable that they have access to whatever is needed to fully participate, such as the proper equipment, prior experiences, and skills needed to enjoy the activity.

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Standard Safety Guidelines. Refer to the "Standard Safety Guidelines" in the [Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) which apply to all Girl Scout gatherings and activities. When the adult-to-girl ratio, or other safety parameters, are stricter for a specific activity than in the Standard Safety Guidelines, always follow the stricter parameters in the activity chapter.

COVID-19 Guidelines. Review the "Coronavirus Safety in Girl Scouts" section in the [Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) under the "Standard Safety Guidelines" section and be certain to consult with [GSNorCal's specific COVID-19 guidance](#). When applicable, always call ahead to the vendor, property or facility involved to check for their COVID-19 safety requirements as you prepare to take girls for this activity.

Emergency Action Plan (EAP). Review and document your Emergency Action Plan (EAP) ahead of time before taking girls out for this activity. Think through scenarios of what can go wrong such as an accident, physical injury to a girl, bad weather, or sudden water emergency.

Ensure participants are able to swim and are comfortable in the water. Success on the water depends on comfort and ability in the water. Consult with parents/guardians about girls' swim abilities before the event. See the [Swimming Safety Activity Checkpoint](#) for water-abilities testing samples, or ask your instructor for guidelines. Only strong swimmers are approved for whitewater canoeing. See Volunteer Essentials for information about first-aid standards and training. [[SAFETYWISE: First Aid & First Aiders](#)]

Ensure all paddlers are wearing a U.S. Coast Guard–approved life jacket. Type III life jackets are recommended. They should fit according to weight and height specifications. Inspect life jackets to ensure that they are in good condition and contain no tears.

Start in shallow water where girls can learn how to navigate paddling, board their boat, balance using their arms and paddles, and stay centered.

Verify lifeguard qualifications and experience. Ensure lifeguards have current certification in American Red Cross (ARC) Lifeguarding with Waterfront Module, or the equivalent.

The instructor or lifeguard must be able to communicate effective commands and instructions and review them with girls before the activity begins.

Ensure the instructor or lifeguard reviews site-specific emergency plans.

Note that a stationary lifeguard can only be used when corcl boating is taking place on flat water close to a dock or shore. For large bodies of flat water, the lifeguard must be in a boat and positioned with the group.

Arrange for watchers/helpers. One dedicated adult watcher or troop helper is required for every 12 girls, plus one additional adult. See the [Paddling and Rowing Sports--Master Progression Chart](#) in *Safety Activity Checkpoints 2023-2024*. Watchers should have basic skills in the activity and support the group by reinforcing instructions, watching for possible emergencies, and helping with rescues if needed. Basic water rescue, small craft safety, or similar training is the preferred preparation.

Remind girls to stay clear of paddles. Because Corcls are small and boats can float close to one another, paddlers can inadvertently hit other paddlers and boats.

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Practice recovery procedures. When girls step on the edge of a boat, the Corcl will flip. Demonstrate self-recovery and righting techniques, and have girls learn and practice these skills. This will help prevent this situation from disorientating or frightening them if their Corcl flips and they end up in the water.

Select a safe site. Corcl boats are only approved for flat water. Do not paddle in unknown areas. Paddling is only permitted near shore.

Learn lifeguard signals. Whistle and visual signals may be used to pass messages, call girls in, or call for help. Cover these before beginning the activity.

Prepare for emergencies. Pack a waterproof first-aid kit. Follow other guidelines in [Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints](#). See Volunteer Essentials for information about first-aid standards and training. [[SAFETYWISE: First Aid & First Aiders](#)]

Safety Gear

- U.S. Coast Guard–approved life jacket for every paddler
- Kayak paddle for each boat (smaller girls may go two girls to a Corcl, but only one paddle is used per boat)
- Rescue gear such as throw bag or throw line
- Tether or painter attached to each boat
- Cell phone or walkie-talkies to communicate need for emergency services

Girl Scouts of Northern California’s Approval Process for Corcl Boating

Corcl Boating is considered a high-adventure activity and must be pre-approved by the council.

- **Trip or High-Adventure Approval Form:** Submit the online [Trip or High-Adventure Approval Form](#) to council at least **4-6 weeks** prior to your activity. Gather the following information to complete this form:
 - Confirmation that your chaperones are registered members of Girl Scouts of Northern California, have a current background check, completed the troop chaperone course and troop driver course (if transporting girls), and completed the [California State Mandated Reporter Training](#). Troop Leaders can find this information in their [Volunteer Toolkit](#).
 - Name of First Aider and a copy of their current CPR/First Aid certification card. Certification needs to be renewed every two years. If you are hiking or backpacking farther than 30 minutes from a medical facility, please have the information of the member, who is certified in Wilderness First Aid, accompanying your troop.
 - Confirm that the necessary online and in-person courses have been completed for this trip. You can find more information or register for these courses in your [Volunteer Learning Portal](#) in the section called Trip & Outdoor Advisor.
 - The **Trip & Outdoor Advisor Course** is required for all overnight and [high-adventure activities](#).
 - The **Camp Out course** is required for all camping trips that involve advanced outdoor cooking or camping trip with girls to a campground or other non-GSNorCal outdoor facility for longer than 1 night without indoor plumbing and electricity. Girls should have already had practice sleeping and cooking outdoors.
 - The **Extended Trips course** is required for troops traveling three (3) nights or more.
 - The **Girl Scout Small Craft Safety Training** is required before you take girls on a small craft water adventure.
- **High-Adventure Approved Vendor List:** GSNorCal troops must select a high-adventure vendor from the [High-Adventure Approved Vendor List](#), which consists of organizations that meet Girl Scouts safety and insurance requirements for the activity. For the safety of our members, before a troop uses a high-adventure site/vendor for a troop or service unit event, the council must approve the high-adventure site/vendor. This process is designed to ensure a safe experience and protect the council’s and volunteer’s legal interests.