

Council Approval: Required

Activity Permitted For: J C S A



About Indoor Skydiving

Indoor skydiving takes place in a vertical wind tunnel (a wind tunnel that moves air in an upward column) to simulate the experience of skydiving without planes or parachutes. The force of the wind generated in the tunnel is based on the size (height and weight), skill level, and needs of the “skydiver.” Each participant “flies” within a column of wind created by the wind tunnel—and the skydiver floats 3 to 6 feet above a trampoline-like net, so if the fan fails, the participant falls into the net and is caught. There are several facilities in the United States that operate vertical wind tunnels for recreation and training; only those facilities with indoor vertical wind tunnels are permitted for use by Girl Scouts.

With this activity, girls get to simulate actual (outdoor) skydiving, including learning about and wearing skydiving gear such as a jumpsuit, goggles, a helmet, and earplugs (for the noise).

Indoor skydiving is not approved for Daisies or Brownies.

Learn More:

- Difference between skydiving and indoor skydiving: [Indoor Skydiving Source](#)
- Explanation of indoor skydiving: [iFLY](#)

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 indoor skydiving, see [iFLY All Abilities](#).

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.

Safety Activity Checkpoints

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 or adult, missing girl, or sudden illness.

Learn ahead of time. Ensure that all first-time participants will be given instruction in how to properly wear and adjust gear and how to float and move in the vertical wind tunnel. All legitimate centers provide instruction.

Practice before flying. With guidance from your instructor, practice body positions ahead of time.

Fall with style. There are several maneuvers skydivers can do while in the wind tunnel including flips, spins, and turns. First-time skydivers will not likely perform or learn any of these maneuvers. This depends on skill level, and the instructor.

Size up gear. Ensure the appropriate sizes of helmets, flight suits, and goggles are available, and make sure that helmets and goggles fit girls' faces securely and comfortably. Make certain that girls with glasses or contacts have goggles that properly accommodate them.

Safeguard valuables. Don't leave personal belongings and valuables unattended in a public place. Most indoor skydiving facilities provide a locker area for personal belongings. Check with the facility ahead of time about cost and availability of the facility's storage options.

Verify instructor knowledge and experience. Ensure that the instructor holds instructional certification from the International Bodyflight Association, or has council-approved equivalent certification or documented experience and skill in teaching and/or supervising indoor skydiving. If you have questions about certification or instructor knowledge, contact either the International Bodyflight Association or Skyventure (a recognized vertical wind tunnel company) to ask about instructors at the facility you intend to use.

Ensure girls stay with an adult. Confirm that the instructor will lead girls to the flight chamber, be with them during the flight experience, and spot them the entire time. The instructor should also lead girls out of the flight chamber.

Check GSNorCal's [Approved Vendor List](#) for sites.

Physical Restrictions

- This activity is not recommended for those with a history of heart trouble.

- Because the body must be in an arched position with hips forward, people with back issues that prevent this body position should avoid flying.
- It is recommended that people with prior shoulder dislocations do not fly, due to a significant amount of wind on shoulders.
- Those who are pregnant should not fly.
- Participants must weigh less than 300 pounds.
- Verify height and weight restrictions at each location.
- Any other serious health issues should be cleared by a physician prior to flying. Check with specific locations for their restrictions before booking a flight.

Safety Gear

These items are provided by the facility:

- Helmet (full face or open face)
- Goggles
- Flight suit

Girl Scouts of Northern California's Approval Process for Indoor Skydiving

Indoor Skydiving 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 [MyGS Account - GSLearn](#) 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/groups 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.

- **Adding high-adventure facilities to the Approved Vendor List:** If your preferred vendor is not listed on the High-Adventure Approved Vendor list, please follow the simple steps in the [Volunteer Essentials](#) for adding high-adventure vendors.