

Effective January 1, 2022, California State Assembly Bill 506 *Youth Service Organizations: Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention*, states a volunteer who volunteers directly with youth are required to take child abuse and neglect mandatory reporter training every two years. In addition, volunteers will also be required to have a cleared background check on file which includes fingerprinting. Here are answers to some frequently asked questions:

Q: What is the process for fulfilling AB506's training requirements?

A: First, take the 5-minute [Mandated Reporter Overview Module](#) available through GSNorCal's [Volunteer Learning Portal](#). Then, take the two-hour [California Child Abuse Mandated Reporter Training for Volunteers](#) available on the state's website. After uploading your Proof of Completion to GSNorCal's Volunteer Learning Portal (1 MB limit), follow the link to the [Mandated Reporter Completion Quiz](#) on the Learning Portal. Finally, complete the 20-minute [GSNorCal Mandated Reporter Policies and Procedures Module](#).

Q: I am already required to take mandated reporter training through my employer (or other youth organization where I also volunteer). Do I have to take the training again?

A: If you have taken mandated reporter training in the past two years, you can upload your proof of certification in the [Mandated Reporter Course](#). You will still be required to take the Overview Module, Completion Quiz, and Policies and Procedures Module outlined above.

Q: When is the due date for taking the Mandated Reporter Training course?

A: Current volunteers who work directly with youth should take the modules and training course as soon as possible, but no later than June 1, 2022. New volunteers will be required to take the modules and training courses before their volunteer status is confirmed.

Q: Do guest speakers attending our troop meetings need to take the training?

A: No, they do not. Only Girl Scout volunteers, e.g., troop leaders, troop treasurers, troop chaperones, troop drivers, product program managers, troop and event first aiders, trip/outdoor/camp advisors, and event managers are required to take the training.

Q: How was this Mandated Reporter training chosen?

A: This course, funded by the California Department of Social Services and the Office of Child Abuse Prevention and created by professionals in the field of child abuse and neglect, was highly recommended by AB506.

Q: Why are there multiple components involved in this mandated reporter training?

A: The California State training is very generic and does not provide the level of detail that our volunteers need to know to carry out their volunteer roles at GSNorCal.

Q: Am I able to start and stop the two-hour training Mandated Reporter Training course?

A: The creators of this training course have designed it so that it can be paused and resumed, although they recommend taking it in one two-hour block of time.

Q: By taking this training does this mean that I am required to report child abuse?

A: Volunteers have an important role in protecting children from abuse and neglect. As a Girl Scout Volunteer, our Volunteer Policy and Safety Guidelines require you to report abuse to council staff. Although volunteers are not required by law to report suspected child abuse and neglect, you are encouraged to do so. If you do not feel comfortable filing a report, you should contact your Volunteer Support Manager (VSM) for support. If you do not know who that is, contact info@gsnorcal.org to be put in contact with your VSM.

Q: When will fingerprinting be available?

A: GSNorCal is in the midst of developing the new processes that are required to make fingerprinting available to our volunteers. We will share this information with you as soon as it is available. If you have received notice that your background screening is about to expire, please follow the screening procedures that are currently in place to ensure that there is no lapse in your background screening records.

Q: I was fingerprinted years ago as part of the GSNorCal background screening process. Will I need to be fingerprinted again?

A: We are uncertain if we will be able to use the legacy fingerprinting that took place a few years ago. We will share that information as soon as it is available.

Q: What do I do if I suspect abuse or neglect?

A: If you suspect abuse or neglect follow the procedures outlined in your Mandated Reporter Training. Use the [Volunteer Mandated Reporter Training Tip Sheet](#) for a review of possible warning signs and steps to take if you suspect abuse or neglect.

Contact info@gsnorcal.org with any additional questions.