

Safety Activity Checkpoint **Amusement Parks**



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

Includes:

- Large theme parks
- Carnivals/ County Fairs
- Smaller amusement-type parks/ Free-standing rides
- Waterparks or facility that includes more than a pool
- Themed adventure parks
- Controlled go-kart activities
- Pop-Up Carnivals

About Amusement Parks

Amusement parks take a wide variety of forms depending on where they are geographically located and the audience they are geared toward. These parks are commercially operated enterprises that offer rides, games, activities, and other forms of entertainment. To ensure a safe park experience, it is important to look at the various activities individually for safety to be sure they are in compliance.

Currently 44 out of 50 states regulate amusement parks. The six without state oversight are Alabama, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, Wyoming, and Utah. These states contain few, if any, amusement parks. (Wyoming has no parks.)

Keep in mind that some locations may have certain activities that are not permissible Girl Scout activities, such as bungee jumping. Be sure to identify these prior to making final plans, and communicate with girls and adults which activities may be restricted because of age, height, and

weight. Also, discuss ride and crowd safety, have a designated meeting space, and encourage girls to act responsibly.

Learn More:

- [Saferparks database](#)
- [Guide to U.S. theme parks](#)

Amusement and other types of adventure parks, as listed above, can be found in most states.

Include Girls with Disabilities

Talk to girls with disabilities and their caregivers. Ask about needs and accommodations. Always be sure to contact the location in advance to ensure they are able to accommodate those with disabilities.

Safety Activity Checkpoints

Connect with Girl Scouts of Northern California for approved sites or site suggestions to ensure the location is vetted. If it is not, allow enough time to have the location approved.

Ensure safety of theme-park rides. Obtain full information about the rides and other activities and evaluate them for safety especially concerning the age, height, and weight levels of girls.

Follow the [Swimming Safety Activity Checkpoint](#). Pay particular attention to water park safety rules. Ensure there are certified lifeguards at each activity. Parents/Guardians should be consulted prior to swimming event to verify girls' abilities.

Know where girls are at all times. Keep track of girls' whereabouts. Conduct a head count before and after activities. Ensure that girls know where to go and how to act when confronted by strangers.

Review plans upon arrival. Adults should obtain a copy of the park guide to facilitate the visit and gain important information on park policies, as well as the location of restrooms and the first-aid station. Plan the rides or events to attend with predetermined groups.

Determine a meeting spot beforehand. Adults should discuss plans for the visit with girls and set a place to meet, establishing a home base spot for girls to go if they are separated from the group.

Verify first-aid particulars. Know where the first-aid station is located. Ensure the presence of a first-aid kit and a first-aider with a current certificate in first aid, including adult and child CPR or CPR/AED, who is prepared to handle cases of abrasions, sprains, and fractures.