

## Amusement Parks: Safety Activity Checkpoint



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

### Includes:

- Large theme parks
- Carnivals/smaller amusement-type parks
- Any waterpark or facility that includes more than a pool
- Themed adventure parks
- Controlled go-kart activities

### About Amusement Parks

Adventure 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](#)
- [International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions](#)

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 if you have questions regarding a particular amusement park.**

**Inquire about adequate insurance.** The park you attend may or may not be able or willing to provide evidence of \$1 million liability insurance and instructor certifications upon request, depending on the size of the group. It is best to at least inquire and have the conversation in order to verify credibility of the park's management.

**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. Girls will need to have a swim test prior to the trip to ensure they can swim.

**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.