Event Planning Timeline and Checklist





1-800- 447-GIRL (4475) Website: www.girlscoutsnorcal.org E-mail: info@girlscoutsnorcal.org

BETWEEN 4-6 MONTHS OR MORE BEFORE EVENT:

PLANNING:

Deciding on the purpose and goal(s) of your event is essential if you are to be successful. If you are unclear about your event, the flyers and information you send out about the event will also be unclear; this can cause confusion on the part of your staff and participants. Here are some questions to consider when determining the purpose and goals.

What type of event is this?

Is the event for girls or adults?
If it is for girls, how will girl participation and
responsibility be incorporated in the planning and
execution of the event?
What age group of girls are you targeting?
Is the program suitable to the age group and
experience?
Is the event to serve current membership, recruit
 new members, or both?
How many participants (girls and adults) can you
 accommodate? How many are you expecting?
How will this event meet the needs of the girls and
 the community?
Will the event provide opportunities for girl input
 and give girls a chance to plan or lead activities?
What kind of opportunities for personal growth will
there be for girls and adults?

Will the event be inclusive of all members?

Is it inevnensive enough to be affordable?

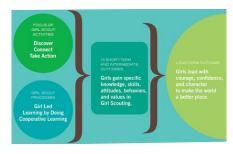
ш	is it inexpensive enough to be altorauble:
	Are the activities adaptable for those with special
	needs?
	Are the activities/food choices culturally sensitive
	Will girls be involved with people from diverse
	backgrounds?

Is it scheduled on a religious or cultural holiday?

Be Inclusive!

Not all girls live with their mother and/or father. Be sure to name your event in a way that girls will feel free to bring another caring adult: VIP and Me or Me and My Guy

Also, be sure to consider specific religious observances, foods, or certain activities that may exclude some girls. Choose a theme that can offer variety and options.



Will your event support the Girl Scout Learning Experience?

- Will the event be fun?Which values in the Promise and Law will girls learn more about?
- How will one or more of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience Processes be integrated:

GIRL LED—Girls learn how to be leaders by leading themselves in age appropriate ways.

LEARNING BY DOING—Girls learn new things through hands-on activities.

COOPERATIVE LEARNING—Girls work together toward a common goal.

- Will the girls **DISCOVER?** (values, skills and confidence to do what's right)
- Will the girls **CONNECT?** (with the community as they learn how to work with other people)
- Will the girls **TAKE ACTION?** (to change the world for the better)
- Which of the **5 Benefits** will the girls gain from this event?
- * Strong Sense of Self-confidence in themselves and their abilities
- * **Positive Values-**act ethically, honestly, responsible, and show concern for others
- * Challenge Seeking-take appropriate risks, try things even if they might fail and learn from mistakes
- Healthy Relationship-develop and maintain a healthy relationship by communicating their feelings and resolving conflicts constructively
- * **Community Problem Solving-**learn how to identify problems and create action plans to solve them.

Are there specific Journey awards, badges, or other program resources related to the event?

If so, what program links do you want to emphasize?Is your program already emphasizing these links?



EVENT PLANNING TIMELINE & CHECKLIST INITIAL PLANNING: The area is large enough, suitable, and safe for Gather service unit input to develop concept for event planned activities. Adequate outdoor and indoor Gather girl input to develop theme, title, and activities space. Maximum occupancy established by fire Determine which members you need for your department or owner are carried through. committee The facility has adequate insurance and a Certificate Enlist girl and adult volunteers for of Insurance listing Girl Scouts of Northern California event committee and hold as additional insured meeting Site is accessible to individuals with disabilities Select a date. Consider service Adequate parking. Safe place for drop off/pick up unit, council, and school calendars If indoors, accessible and well-marked exits. If Be inclusive! Consider religious multiple story building, there are at least two exits holidays (be careful-observances separate from each other. Exits are by stairs, not for some holidays begin the ladders, with well-secured handrails evening before) Sanitary toilets and hand washing facilities: Include event on service unit calendar Overnight Sites 1 for every 20 persons 1 for every 30 persons Dav Camp **EVENT FINANCIAL FORM (BUDGETING):** All day events 1 for every 100 persons Use budget worksheet to start the budgeting process Large overnight events 1 for every 50 persons Determine estimated total event cost If beds are provided, must be no more than two high Determine fee per person (develop payment schedule Safe water supply (or bring in adequate water) if necessary) Electricity needs are met. Equipment at the facility is Submit Event Financial Report to service unit for up-to-date and in good working order approval before any money is collected or spent and Efficient garbage disposal, sewage, wastewater before the event is publicized in any way Determine who will be the event treasurer Telephone available for your use (cell service is not Work with service unit to determine how, when, and always available) by whom expenses and deposits will be paid Fire extinguishers are located throughout the facilities Determine needed forms: Money Earning, Donations, Emergency evacuation plans are posted Sponsorship, etc. Adequate smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and Review guidelines in Volunteer Essentials concerning sprinklers are in place according to local fire codes money-earning Local law enforcement and fire protection agencies Consider affordability of event for the girls in the area are known and notified for remote sites being served Areas for campfires are well cleared and have fire Determine amount to be set aside for financial fighting equipment nearby (a permit may be assistance for girls who may not be able to afford the required—check with park ranger) event Kitchens, dining facilities, and food service areas comply with all applicable building and health codes. **EVENT NOTIFICATION & APPROVAL FORM:** Site can provide for proper storage and preparations Obtain approval from Leader Support Manager or of food to prevent illness. If using a commercial Program Support Manager in your service unit for kitchen, it is required that at least one adult have a event as soon as possible and before sending any current Serve Safe certificate. publicity or flyers out about the event Site provides adequate protection from weather Site allows for adequate security precautions to be **SELECT A SITE:** taken Use the following criteria Send deposit for site, obtain permit or contract Obtain required council staff signatures on any to identify appropriate site: contracts as outlined in Volunteer Essentials Determine whether the site or any vendors will Review Volunteer require a Certificate of Insurance. If so, use Certificate Essentials for council properties that are of Insurance Request form. available.

PEF	RMISSION & HEALTH HISTORY FORMS	TR	ANSPORTATION & OTHER CONCERNS:
Tro	op/group leaders must understand that they must		When renting or chartering a bus is necessary,
hav	e a signed permission form for <u>every</u> girl to participate		permission must be obtained from the council Risk
	<u>ny</u> event.		Management Department at least 4 weeks before the
	Determine whether the Annual Permission Form may		event.
	be used (if the activity does not exceed 6 hours, the		Certain insurance minimums
	destination is located within 60 miles of the regular		must be met and contracts
	meeting place, and the activity is not considered high		signed by council staff. Consult
	adventure) Otherwise regular permission form must		Volunteer Essentials for
	be used.		additional information.
	Determine whether troop/group leaders will collect		Vans carrying up to 10 people
	and bring girl permission forms (group registration		are permissible. Vans carrying up to 12 people may
	events) or whether you must collect them from		be used with special approval (if all drivers have
	individual girls.		current Class B licenses) from the council. 15
	Determine whether troop/group leaders will bring girl		passenger vans are not approved to transport Girl
	Health History forms (group registration events) or		Scouts in our council.
	whether you must collect them from individual girls		Current laws regarding care safety seats for children
	and keep them with the First Aider.		must be followed.
	For activities/events lasting 3 days or more include a		Drivers must be an approved adult volunteer at least
	health screening upon arrival. Look for signs of illness,		21 years old, a good driving record and have a valid
	cough, fever, flushed skin and screen for head lice.		license.
	If your activity or event is overnight, Adult Health	TR	IP OR HIGH-ADVENTURE APPROVAL FORM
	History Forms are required.		If you will be doing any high adventure activities OR
co	NTRACTS:	ш	your event is 3 nights or longer, you must submit a
	All contracts, agreements, memorandums of		Trip or High Adventure Approval Form to the council
ш	understanding, and facility use permits must be		(just one form for the whole event—troops/groups do
	approved and signed by an authorized council staff		NOT need to turn them in).
	member. Don't wait to the last minute, as contracts		·
	may take 5-8 business days to review and sign.	Bl	ETWEEN 2—4 MONTHS
	Volunteer Essentials has information as to where to		
	send the contact.	BI	EFORE THE EVENT
INS	SURANCE:	BE	GIN ESTABLISHING THE EVENT SCHEDULE:
	Additional insurance must be obtained if unregistered		Determine who will arrive before the participants in
ш	people (adults or children) will be present at your		order to set-up, communicate with site liaison and
	event. Additional insurance is also needed if the		fire/police, post signs, set-up registration table, escort
	event will last 3 nights or more. This insurance is		event staff to their positions, and resolve last-minute
	extremely inexpensive and easy to obtain. For more		situations
	information consult <i>Volunteer Essentials</i> or the council		Determine when registration or check-in should begin
	website.		Include a time for brief announcements (location of
	All requests must be received 2 weeks/10 working		first aider, lost and found, emergency procedures)
	days prior to the first day of your event.		Determine who is responsible to assist with certain
П	Vendors and facilities should have a Certificate of		duties, such as clean up during and after event.
_	Insurance on file with GSNorCal that shows		Schedule time for snacks or meals as appropriate.
	\$1,000,000 in liability insurance and listing GSNorCal		For longer events, schedule breaks for the adults.
	as an additional insured. Allow at least 2 weeks.		Consider establishing kapers for girls, adults, or
	Vendors or facilities may require that Girl Scouts of		groups to help out with certain duties.
	Northern California provide a Certificate		Develop inclement weather plans.
	of Insurance. Allow at least 2 weeks.		
	For questions or more information		
	about any insurance matters, contact		
	the insurance specialist at		SCHEDII EI
	insurance@girlscoutsnorcal.org.		ONTEDULE!

EVENT PLANNING TIMELINE & CHECKLIST PUBLICITY: Design publicity plans INFORMATION ABOUT Establish registration procedures, cancellation policy **HIGH ADVENTURE** Create flyers, registration and confirmation materials **ACTIVITIES** Obtain approval from service unit before distribution Distribute promotion material The activities below are specified by GSNorCal as Begin accepting registrations and send confirmation high adventure activities in Volunteer Essentials. **SAFETY PLANNING:** (which is not intended as an exhaustive list) and Event Manager needs to complete Safety Wise are all included because they fit into one or both of training the following categories: Determine adult/girl ratio for this event. the activity involves a reasonable expectation of Recruit Girl Scout First Aider physical risk to the girls, Consult Safety Activity Checkpoints for activities. the activity involves legal risk to the adult Review Volunteer Management Policies in Volunteer volunteers and/or the council. These include Essentials situations where rider or other additional insurance may be required, vendor or facility SITE SECURITY: contracts may need to be signed, adult must be Consult Girl Scout Safety Guidelines in Volunteer certified in a specific skill, or specific critical Essentials guidelines must be followed to ensure the Tour entire site and note hazards traffic, accessible safety of the girls. cleaning supplies or other chemicals, areas Land Sports: archery, backpacking, bicycling with accessible by the public, exposed tree roots, marshy vendor supplied bicycles, bounce houses, areas, cliffs, poison oak, areas where girls would be camping, caving, challenge/ropes courses, out of sight, etc. climbing walls, fencing, gymnastics, horseback Establish boundaries and off-limits areas for riding, ice skating, indoor skydiving, indoor participants trampolining, in-line or roller skating, Establish procedures for girl supervision. marksmanship, rock climbing, Segway, Establish the buddy system for girls (and adults?). skateboarding at a skateboard park, skiing, Establish rules for girls to notify adults when they will sledding, snowboarding, snowshoeing, snow use the bathroom or go to a different area. tubing, tobogganing, vaulting on horseback, or Establish safe areas to store valuables. when girls ages 12 and older will operate Establish an evacuation plan. motorized vehicles. For activities/events lasting more than one day Water Activities: boating, canoeing, kayaking, requires a fire drill within the first 24 hours of the rafting, sailing, scuba, snorkeling, surfing, event. swimming, tubing, water skiing or wakeboarding, Communicate GSNorCal alcohol (may not have) and windsurfing, any type of trips on waterways that smoking (smoke in designated area and out of sight are highly changeable or uncontrollable or when of girls) policy to all adults. Volunteer Management girls ages 12 and older will operate motorized Policies in Volunteer Essentials watercraft. Establish procedures for girls to check in and out of If the girls will be participating in high adventure the event, girls who leave early, etc. No participant activities like the above, a Trip or High should leave early without written permission from Adventure Approval Form must be filed with the their custodial parent or guardian. Such requests council Risk Management Department must be submitted immediately upon arrival. travel@girlscoutsnorcal.org. Note that only one **CERTIFICATIONS & LOCAL ORDINACES** form for the event should be filed (each Determine the level of first aid required whether a participating troop/group should NOT file this First Aider or Wilderness First Aider form). Determine if any other adults with special certifications or trainings are required. Require written evidence of competence or documented training and experience. For example, it may be

necessary to have a person who holds a Food

your event, or you may need a lifeguard.

Handlers' License (ServSafe) in order to serve food at

EVENT PLANNING TIMELINE & CHECKLIST COMMUNICATION: troops/groups, the group may turn in an individual roster prior to the event or at check-in. Determine location of the telephone. Troop/group leaders are generally responsible for Know location and transportation route to get to permission forms, Health History forms, and photo nearest hospital. release forms for all girls attending with their troop/ Compile a list of local emergency telephone numbers: group, but sometimes depending on the site layout or ambulance, hospital, poison control center, police, types of activities planned, the registrar should hold fire, building maintenance, etc. Distribute and post these documents (First Aider holds Health History information—especially near telephones. forms). Establish an emergency contact person who is not at Girls must have a health examination within the the event. List this person's contact information on preceding 24 months for participation in resident the registration form. The person should have a list of camps, or an event lasting more than 3 nights. all participants and their emergency contacts. Health History forms for adults are required for If your site is large, how will event staff communicate overnight events or when they will participate in with each other? Cell phones? Walkie-talkies? physically demanding activities. Contact fire and police prior to event if event will be in Adults must have a health examination if they will a remote area or there are special parking, traffic, or participate in extended trips. safety concerns. Site and vendor Certificates of Insurance. ☐ Site rental contract or permit (don't forget to arrange **EMERGENCY PLAN:** for a council staff member to sign all contracts and Design a plan for managing emergency situations, including consideration of: Activity Accident Insurance Basic Coverage pamphlet. Natural hazards (lake, cliffs, etc.), Mutual of Omaha Insurance Claim Form—completed Natural disasters (storms, floods, fire, etc.), and turned in with the Accident/Injury Report Form. Injuries or medical emergencies, Accident/Injury Report Forms (use for any accident or Lost children. illness that requires or potentially may require medical Intruders—establish procedures for politely asking attention). Must be submitted within 24 hours of non-participants to leave the area. occurrence to Risk Management Department, Communicate with event staff and other adults on Insurance Specialist at the Alameda office. how to respond in an emergency prior to event. ☐ Incident Form (use to report any non-injury incident of ☐ Establish and communicate emergency evacuation serious verbal abuse, physical altercation or an plan with all participants (where will they go?)—let unusual and/or serious behavioral situation). them know who is in charge in these situations prior GSNorCal Emergency Cards should be distributed to to event. Should cars back into parking spots? all event staff and a reminder sent to troop/group Establish emergency communication system on site. leaders to distribute to all adults present. Establish security plan, adult supervision placement. Media Information Sheet (process of how to assist Review Girl Scouts of Northern California Emergency the media to connect with a council spokesperson) Management Plan in Volunteer Essentials (electronic Onsite contact information for all event staff if copies of the emergency card can be downloaded available (e.g. cell phone numbers). from the council website). First Aider downloads GSNorCal Health & Safety Plan for Activities and Events. FOUR-SIX WEEKS BEFORE THE Review Service Unit Emergency Plan, if there is one. How will parents be communicated with in the event **EVENT** of an emergency? **FINALIZE REGISTRATION PROCEDURES HEADQUARTERS EMERGENCY RECORDS:** Create spreadsheet (electronic is ideal) to track who A roster of all girl and adult participants in attendance has registered—including names, and should be maintained. If girls will participate with their pertinent demographic information such as grade level of participants or Communicate your emergency plans with all adult other useful information, how much and girl participants-plans do no good if money has been collected, T-shirt or nobody knows them! patch orders and sizes, etc.

EVENT PLANNING TIMELINE & CHECKLIST Collect registration payments for activity/admission fees 2 WEEKS Periodically share the spreadsheet with committee members to allow them to plan and help to promote **BEFORE THE EVENT** event to those who haven't yet registered. If the event fills, create a waiting list to fill spaces Purchase special insurance for any non-registered created by cancellations. Deposit money collected into the service unit participants (non-registered event staff, parents, siblings, non-member girls, etc.) Contact checking account on a regular basis. insurance@girlscoutsnorcal.org Periodically reconcile amount deposited with Finalize emergency phone tree and provide to at registration records. Send information packets to event staff, consultants, home event emergency contact person. Follow up with event staff, consultants, and vendors. and/or vendors with event schedule, directions, map, Prepare rosters/sign in sheets for all girls & adults. and emergency plans for the event. Confirm in writing Visit site to verify set-up and equipment operation. what to expect at the event. Finalize list of items to bring to event, begin packing Distribute confirmation packets to participants with schedule, directions, what to bring, and safety them. Purchase remaining needed items. considerations. Determine signs needed and prepare them. Remind troop/group leaders of their responsibility to bring forms, distribute emergency cards to all adults, Enlist clean up help and other volunteers. Check weather forecasts, take precautions accordingly, such as supplying adequate drinking Finalize event schedule. water on hot days. Borrow or purchase needed equipment, supplies. Download several copies of Media Information Sheet. Verify equipment/set-up needed and site rules with site liaison. Establish Lost & Found procedures File Trip or High Adventure Approval Form with council if any activities are high adventure, or event will be 3 nights or longer (1 form for whole event—troops do not need their own). PREPARE EVENT EVALUATION FORM What was the goal of the event? What knowledge, skills, and abilities will the participants have when they leave? Which of the 5 Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) outcome(s) will the event focus on? Which Girl Scout Process(es) will the event focus on Girl Led, Cooperative Learning, or Learning by Doing? Participants (girls and adults) should complete the evaluation. It is also great to have event staff and the Event Manager complete evaluations as well. There are many types of evaluations that you can do. The following are just some ideas to get you started. Verbal Written, including rating scales, happy faces, free response questions Pictures/drawings Journal writing Mural or graffiti wall Observations (as girls are building fires observe their skills)

Evaluation games (go to this side of the room if

you liked it, go here if you didn't)

DAY OF THE EVENT

	Arrive early and ensure that site is left clean.
	Circulate among event staff, communicate and
	inspire—be enthusiastic.
	Troubleshoot problems as they arise; expect the
	unexpected.
	•
Ш	Set up equipment and post signs at least one hour
	before start time.
	Event Manager should be free of tasks that prevent
	giving direction; delegate tasks that suddenly occur.
	Welcome and direct the event staff and vendors.
	Set up activity stations 1 hour + before start time.
H	Treasurer brings checkbook to pay any bills.
Ш	Acknowledge committee members, event staff,
	consultants, etc.
	Ensure that site is left clean.
CH	ECK IN PRE-REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS:
	Have plenty of people processing check in so the line
	moves quickly.
	Allow time for check in before event starts.
IH	Create a check-off list of participants who have pre-
Ш	registered. Have numerous copies available.
	•
Ш	Consider having stations that break up the alphabet or
	troop number list to keep lines moving e.g. A-F line
	one, G-M, etc. or Troop # 1-296 here).
	If participants register as individuals, collect
	permission forms, Health History forms, as
	appropriate.
	If participants check in with troop/group, collect
	individual participant roster for group.
Ш	Provide participant or group leader with needed items
	such as schedule, map, "passport", wrist bands,
	patch, evaluation, etc.
	If selling items such as patches or T shirts, keep a
	secure cash box. At the end of the event, the cash
	should be counted by two people together and turned
	over to Treasurer or Event Manager with the total
	count in writing signed by both individuals.
Ш	Communicate procedures for girls to check out of the
	event, girls who leave early, etc. Ensure that girls are
	only released to approved individuals.
	Give instructions about where to go next, what to do
	next.
	Make sure there is adequate space in a safe area for
ľ	participants to wait before the event begins. Consider
	having song leading or other activities to keep
	participants from becoming too restless.

SAMPLE EMERGENCY PLAN:

In the event of an accident at the event:

- Nearest adult should stay with & comfort the injured victim(s). First aid should not be performed by anyone other than a certified First Aider, except in a life threatening emergency.
- Another adult should act as a runner to notify the manager and First Aider. (If no adult is available, two girls may be dispatched as runners to locate another staff member or the event manager).
- Once the First Aider arrives at the scene, first aid will be administered and a decision will be made whether to take the victim to the emergency room, to request a doctor or an ambulance, or to request law enforcement personnel.
- Either the First Aider or the Event Manager will place the call for more aid.
- A determination should be made at this point if the accident constitutes an emergency and the steps listed for council emergency management in *Volunteer Essentials* should be followed.

*Note: This is just the part of an emergency plan for accidents.



AFTER THE EVENT

EVENT BINDER OR SCRAPBOOK:: Flyer, other promotional materials Registration form Confirmation packet Handouts/booklets Pictures of how things were set-up Pictures, samples or descriptions of activities Site and vendor information Income and expense information Final attendance numbers Patch **Evaluation Summary** Anything else that would be helpful to someone running this or a similar event in the future COMMITTEE, STAFF WRAP UP: Hold wrap-up meeting/celebration with event committee/staff to de-brief and recognize them for their accomplishments. De-brief the event with staff and committee Recognize people for their accomplishments with public praise, a certificate, small gift, thank you note, as appropriate. Write thank you letters, perhaps send a certificate of appreciation to other small token to recognize contributions of time or money (event volunteers, vendors who attended, etc.). Write thank you letters and acknowledge service hours for girls who assisted with event planning or helped at the event. FINANCIAL: Pay remaining bills and reimburse volunteer expenses Complete Event Financial Report Form REPORTING: Submit Event Notification & Report Form to service unit within two weeks of the event Submit Financial Form for Events to service unit within two weeks of the event. Include all original receipts and any remaining funds Submit Donation Form to council Compile evaluations and give results to Program Support Manager or report at a service unit team meeting. MISCELLANEOUS: Follow up with patch distribution, if needed Return borrowed equipment Refurbish consumable resources (e.g. first aid kit) Write thank you letters









Celebrate a job well done!