

Frequently Asked Questions

Troop Travel

We want to do a high-adventure activity in (name of state or city outside of our territory). Why do we need the vendor to be approved by GSNorCal even though the vendor said that they have been working with Girl Scouts in their area for years?

Though Girl Scouts is a national organization, each council is insured independently. To ensure that the GSNorCal volunteers and members are properly insured during their adventure, we need to be certain that we do our part by observing the guidelines governed by our insurance company by vetting all the vendors our volunteers want to use.

Does council need to sign contracts for rental vehicles?

No. Private transportation includes private passenger vehicles, rental cars, privately owned or rented recreational vehicles and campers, chartered buses, chartered boats, and chartered flights.

A Cadette troop will be traveling to Seaside, Oregon to volunteer at a local beach clean-up event. They will be flying to Oregon and will need transportation and a place to stay when they get there.

- The troop will pick up their rental car from the airport and drive to the beach hotel they reserved for the weekend. Using a rental car company and staying in traditional commercial properties, like hotels that are much safer than private companies. The use of Airbnb and ride sharing companies like Uber are not permitted. The safety, credibility, and insurance of individual drivers is far more difficult if not impossible to qualify compared to that of traditional or well-known commercial charter or rental companies.

Transportation - Policy about male drivers

If a troop is traveling in one vehicle, there must be at least two unrelated, background checked adult volunteers in the vehicle, one of which is female, and the adult-to-girl ratios must be followed. One or both adults must qualify as a troop driver following the standards listed in the Volunteer Essentials.

If a troop is traveling in more than one vehicle, the entire group must consist of at least two unrelated, background checked adult volunteers, one of whom is female, and the adult-to-girl ratios must be followed. Care should be taken so that a single car (with a single adult driver) has at least two girls, and is not separated from the troop for an extended length of time. A male volunteer may act as a driver, but must never have one girl in the car alone, except for his own daughter. All drivers must qualify as troop drivers following the standards stated in the Volunteer Essentials.

Money Earning

Money earned for Girl Scout activities is for all the girls and is not to be retained by individuals nor used for adult experiences (other than for required adults in adult-to-girl ratios).

In cases where troop funds will not cover the full cost of a planned activity, particularly, in the case of extended troop travel, parents who want their girls to participate will cover the balance of their daughters' costs.

In cases where girls have left the troop and will no longer be participating in troop trips, funds will remain in the troop.

In cases where new girls are added to the troop and these new girls wish to participate in in-progress trips, parents/guardians will be asked to cover their daughter's costs to account for monies that other girls have already earned prior to the new girls' arrival.

Required Training

Detailed information about required training can be found in the [Trip and Outdoor Advisor Learning Matrix](#)

- A Cadette troop (of 24 people) will be going to Savannah, GA for 4 nights. What are the learning requirements for at least one adult who will help plan and attend the trip?

For indoor overnights for 3-4 nights only in California, Nevada, and Oregon, the adult is to take the Trip & Outdoor Basics, Sleep In, and Regional Travel. Even though this trip is within the 4 nights it is outside the mentioned states, therefore, the adult needs to complete the Extended Troop Travel in-person course as well.

- A Junior troop will be staying in a cabin at Lake Tahoe for 3 nights. The girls and adults will take turns preparing all their meals. What are the learning requirements for at least one adult who will help plan and attend the trip?

For this type of trip, at least one adult will need to complete Trip & Outdoor Basics, Sleep In, Regional Travel, and Cook In. No in-person training is required for this type of trip.

- Your Cadette troop is planning a 4-day backpacking trip where they will cook and sleep out in primitive camping sites. What are the learning requirements for at least one adult who will help plan and attend the trip?

You always need to start with the Trip & Outdoor Basics, then go to Sleep In, Cook in, Sleep Out, Cook Out, and Campfire online modules. Because of how many days you will need to complete the Regional Travel online module and then attend the in-person classes of Camp Out and Backpacking. Based on your program level and hopefully experience you should have already completed many of these courses.

- Your Ambassador troop is planning a 10-day trip to Europe. They will stay indoors at hostels and hotels and will do a combination of cooking in and eating out. What are the learning requirements for at least one adult who will help plan and attend the trip?

Trip & Outdoor Basics, Sleep in, Cook In, Regional Travel online modules and the Extended Troop Travel in-person class for more than 5 nights and international.

Insurance

A Senior troop is planning an international trip to Paris for 10 days what kind of insurance is needed and how to I request it?

- PLAN 3PI - Accident and Sickness Insurance for International Trips. For any Girl Scout group planning a trip out of the country. It should be purchased in the planning stages of the trip. The request for insurance is done at the time of submitting for council approval.
- If your trip is out of state, you need to purchase; PLAN 3E - Accident and Sickness Insurance. This insurance plan is recommended for trips out of state and where concern of illness may occur. This covers both accident and illness insurance.
- To get answers to Frequently Asked Questions related to Girl Scout Activity Insurance, please go to [Member Insurance Guide: Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Who and when do I have to submit approval for a troop trip?

All high-adventure activities (even ones for just the day) and overnights, require a trip or high-adventure form. Each Safety Activity Checkpoints (SACs), which you can find in the Forms section of our website, indicates which activity is a high-adventure activity. You can also find a list that states which activities are considered high-adventure, along with a list of activities that are not permitted by GSNorCal in the Safety-Wise section of the Volunteer Essentials. [[VOLUNTEER ESSENTIALS: Safetywise](#)]

For a National trip, you must complete the Trip & High Adventure Approval form 4-6 weeks prior to departure.

For an International trip, it must be submitted at least 6 months prior to departure.

Traveling with Siblings

I have an adult chaperone attending our trip to Disneyland and wants to bring her younger daughter who is also a Girl Scout member. Is that permitted?

Yes, but according to our insurance company, additional insurance will need to be purchased for that sibling despite their Girl Scout membership. Mutual of Omaha states it like this in their Basic Plan (Plan 1) FAQs:

Q. Are "Tagalongs" (brothers, sisters, friends) covered under the Basic Plan?

A. No. If the "Tagalong" is a registered member of a different troop/group, but is not of the proper age for the activity and is not participating as a service project, there is still no coverage. For example, a registered Daisy tagging along with the parent who is leading a Cadette troop has no coverage for the event. Conversely, a Cadette assisting at a Daisy meeting does have coverage.