

California State Assembly Bill 506 *Youth Service Organizations: Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention*, states volunteers who volunteer directly with youth are required to take child abuse and neglect mandatory reporter training every two years. In addition to that it is GSNorCal's policy that 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: This is an easy 1,2,3 process. Both gsLearn courses are required.

1. Log in to GS Learn (through [MyGS](#) if a volunteer or through Okta if Council Staff).
2. Complete the [Mandated Reporter Biennial Course](#) (about 50 minutes).
3. Electronically sign the [Mandated Reporter Annual Acknowledgement](#) (1 minute).



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: Yes, this training is tailored specifically for Girl Scouts, which is why we will no longer be able to accept Mandated Reporter training from other organizations or providers.

Q: What changes have been made to the Mandated Reporter training process?

A: We have updated our Mandated Reporter training to comply with state law, new insurance requirements, and best practices. The new training is shorter, Girl Scout-specific, and still provides all the essential information needed to comply with regulations. The training includes an overview from GSUSA, followed by a GSNorCal-specific section that reiterates council policies and provides reporting information specific to our state and the counties we serve.

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

A: [The Biennial Course](#) is required every 2 years by California State Assembly Bill 506. [The Annual Acknowledgment](#) electronic signature is required annually by our insurance company.

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

A: In order to ensure complete compliance with the latest laws and regulations, we are requesting any volunteers scanned prior to May 2023 be rescanned. The previous fingerprint background checks no longer meet the current standards. Thank you for understanding the importance of maintaining a safe and secure environment for everyone involved. Read more about the [new background screening process](#).

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

A: Current volunteers who work directly with youth should take the training course as soon as possible. Their deadline is December 31, 2024 or their next troop field trip, whichever comes first. New volunteers are required to take the training course before their volunteer status is confirmed.

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. After filing a report, immediately [contact](#) your Volunteer Support Manager (VSM) and let them know. If you do not know who that is, contact info@gsnorcal.org to be put in [contact](#) with your VSM.

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

A: 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. Then make a report if deemed necessary. Volunteers are required to report abuse to council staff immediately. Please contact your SU Contact List representative or email info@gsnorcal.org immediately.

Q: Why is it required to complete the Mandated Reporter training and the Acknowledgement?

A: Completing the training ensures compliance with California State law, helps protect the children, and fulfills our insurance requirements. It also equips you with the knowledge and tools needed to identify and report any incidents of abuse or neglect, ensuring the safety and well-being of all members.

Q: I did the older Mandated Reporter and was in the middle of another training, now I am no longer able to move forward in the module. Why?

A: If you are currently working on a Learning Path for a specific role, please be aware that your progress will be paused until you complete the required Biennial training and the Annual Acknowledgement. Once you have completed both requirements, you can resume your Learning Path where you left off.

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

A: Adults who are not qualified GSNorCal volunteers can attend troop meeting or activities as long as they are not left alone with or responsible for youth members other than their own child. Additionally, they cannot handle troop money or count towards the adult/youth ratio but may assist with tasks like meeting preparation, guest speaking, planning, and organizing activities.

Contact info@gsnorcal.org with any additional questions.