

Council Approval: Required

Activity Permitted For: *D *B J C S A



Includes:

- Aquatic Inflatables
- Bounce houses and land inflatables
- Bubble soccer
- Log-rolling with synthetic logs
- Amusement/theme parks with inflatables

About Inflatables

Most inflatables can be found in public facilities, parks, events, etc. but some commercial ones may be able to be rented. Forward any contracts or agreements that require a signature to GSNorCal at insurance@gsnorcal.org.

Aquatic Climbing Walls, slides bounce platforms, obstacle courses are made from a variety of materials and placed in the deep end of the pool, or lake.

Bounce houses (closed inflatable trampolines, bouncy houses, bouncy castles, moon bounces, moonwalks, jumpers, etc.) and other land inflatables are temporary inflatable structures and buildings used for recreational purposes, particularly for children.

NOTE:

- * *Daisies cannot participate in aquatic bounce houses.*
- * *Aquatic climbing walls are not permitted for Daisies and Brownies.*
- * *Daisies may only participate in bounce houses that are specific for their age, height, and/or weight.*



Bubble soccer is an exciting twist on the traditional game of soccer. Girls are wrapped in a giant, soft inflatable bubble ball with shoulder harnesses and handles inside.

NOTE:

* *Bubble soccer is not permitted for Daisies and Brownies.*



Log rolling with synthetic logs can be done in a pool or lake and for girls of all ages. Participants need to be strong swimmers who can swim in water deeper than 5 feet.

Making Activities Accessible

In order to make your activity accessible to girls of all abilities, it's important to communicate with all girl attendees and their caregivers to learn about and accommodate their varied support needs. For resources and information on accessible sport and adventure activities, visit [Move United](#).

Information on accommodations for inflatable parks is similar to that for amusement parks.

Learn More:

[International Association of Amusement Parks and Attraction](#)

Equity

In addition to physical and social-emotional disabilities, consider the history, culture, and past experiences of the girls in your troop that could affect a girl's ability to equally participate in an activity. Work with girls and families to understand how an activity is perceived. Ensure that all girls and their families feel comfortable that they have access to whatever is needed to fully participate, such as the proper equipment, prior experiences, and skills needed to enjoy the activity.

Safety Activity Checkpoints

Standard Safety Guidelines. Refer to the "Standard Safety Guidelines" in the [Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) which apply to all Girl Scout gatherings and activities. When the adult-to-girl ratio, or other safety parameters, are stricter for a specific activity than in the Standard Safety Guidelines, always follow the stricter parameters in the activity chapter.

COVID-19 Guidelines. Review the "Coronavirus Safety in Girl Scouts" section in the [Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) under the "Standard Safety Guidelines" section and be certain to consult with [GSNorCal's specific COVID-19 guidance](#). When applicable, always call ahead to the vendor, property or facility involved to check for their COVID-19 safety requirements as you prepare to take girls for this activity.

Emergency Action Plan (EAP). Review and document your Emergency Action Plan (EAP) ahead of time before taking girls out for this activity. Think through scenarios of what can go wrong such as an accident, physical injury to a girl or adult, missing girl, or sudden illness.

Check [GSNorCal's Approved Vendor List](#) for approved sites.

Select a safe site. Ensure that sites or rented inflatables follow safety precautions:

- **Aquatic climbing walls, slides, bounce platforms, and obstacle courses** are placed in the deep end of the pool, or lake. Participants need to be strong swimmers who can swim in water deeper than 5 feet. Non-strong swimmers need to wear a life vest, properly fitted and appropriate to their weight.
- **Bounce houses** and other land inflatables are properly secured to the ground, especially in windy weather. Ensure the number of participants in a bounce house at a time does not exceed manufacturer recommendations for safety. On inflatable slides, obstacle courses, etc., girls take turns and wait for the person before them to exit before going.
- **Bubble soccer** should be played on a flat area that is free of obstacles, pillars, trees, stumps, rocks, and roots. Only one person in a ball at a time. No rolling down hills while wearing a ball. Bubble should be fully covering at least 8 inches above the head, to allow for roll overs and head protection. Players should not run full speed and should only bump into players with light to moderate speed. Players should not bend down when bumping another player, instead using the sides of the bubble for impact with other players, not the top. Players should not lift the bubble ball via the handles except to get up.
- **Log rolling with synthetic logs** needs to be done in water that is at least 2 feet deep. Log needs to be at least 10 feet from any obstructions- walls, rocks, trees, beach, etc. Log should be aligned perpendicular (as a T) to dock, pool edge, hard objects, etc. Beginners should have someone holding log as they get on. Non-strong swimmers should wear a life vest, properly fitted and appropriate to their weight if the water is above their knees. Beginners should use "trainers" to slow the log down.

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

For water parks, follow the [Swimming Safety Activity Checkpoint](#). Pay particular attention to water park safety rules. Ensure there are certified lifeguards at each activity. Troop leaders or event planners should verify with Parents/Guardians about girls' swim abilities, prior to event to ensure they can swim. The pool operator or lifeguard may have the final word in determining a girl's abilities based on the skills needed. It is recommended that swimmers that are not proficient wear a life vest.

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 or intruders.

Review plans upon arrival. Adults should obtain a copy of the park guide to facilitate the visit and gain important information on park policies and the location of restrooms and the First-Aid station.

Have a predetermined meeting spot. Adults should discuss plans for the visit with girls and set a place to meet in case the group becomes separated.

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.

Girl Scouts of Northern California's Approval Process for Inflatables

Inflatables are considered a high adventure activity and must be pre-approved by the council.

- **Trip or High-Adventure Approval Form:** Submit the online [Trip or High-Adventure Approval Form](#) to council at least 4-6 weeks prior to your activity. Gather the following information to complete this form:

- Confirmation that your chaperones are registered members of Girl Scouts of Northern California, have a current background check, completed the troop chaperone course and troop driver course (if transporting girls), and completed the [California State Mandated Reporter Training](#). Troop Leaders can find this information in their [Volunteer Toolkit](#).
- Name of First Aider and a copy of their current CPR/First Aid certification card. Certification needs to be renewed every two years. If you are hiking or backpacking farther than 30 minutes from a medical facility, please have the information of the member, who is certified in Wilderness First Aid, accompanying your troop.
- Confirm that the necessary online and in-person courses have been completed for this trip. You can find more information or register for these courses in your [MyGS Account - GSLearn](#) in the section called Trip & Outdoor Advisor.
 - The **Trip & Outdoor Advisor Course** is required for all overnight and [high-adventure activities](#).
 - The [Camp Out course](#) is required for all camping trips that involve advanced outdoor cooking or camping trip with girls to a campground or other non-GSNorCal outdoor facility for longer than 1 night without indoor plumbing and electricity. Girls should have already had practice sleeping and cooking outdoors.
 - The **Extended Trips course** is required for troops traveling three (3) nights or more.
 - The **Girl Scout Small Craft Safety Training** is required before you take girls on a small craft water adventure.