

Updates and Clarifications as of 09/09 for use with Safety-Wise (2000) publication

The following document contains updates and/or clarifications to the Safety-Wise © 2000 Edition in reverse chronological order. This information provides Girl Scout councils with the most current information on health and safety. Girl Scout councils provide volunteers and staff with the interpretation of standards, activity checkpoints and safety guidelines.

Please see index on the following page for a listing of updates by category including release date and an alphabetical listing by topic.

03/09 Future Safety-Wise Checkpoint Additions

In responding to girls' current interests, GSUSA anticipates that guidelines for several activities will be added in future safety and risk management publications. Below is a list of potential topics created in March 2008. We will continue to review potential additions to best meet the needs of our membership.

Please note: Zip Lines, Tree Climbing, and Canopy Cruising guidelines are the same as the Challenge Courses, Climbing, and Rappelling checkpoints on pp. 99–101 of Safety-Wise.

Land Sports, p. 94

Fencing

Geocaching

Segway (transportation using EPAMDS—electric personal assistive mobility devices)

Skateboarding

Sail Skateboarding, Skate Sailing (Wind Skating or Street Surfing) and Kite Skateboarding

Water Activities, p. 112

Ice Fishing

Scuba Diving

Snorkeling

Surfing

By Category

#Activity Checkpoints	
2004 02 Canoeing and Kayaking.....	16
2004 02 Orienteering	16
2004 02 Rafting.....	16
2008 10 Camping with Daisies.....	13
2008 10 Swimming.....	15
2009 03 Activity Checkpoints	1
2009 03 Bicycling.....	12
#Computer and Online Safety.....	8
#Cookies	<i>See #Product Sale</i>
#First Aid	
2004 02 Application of Lotion.....	15
2004 02 CPR Certification.....	15
2004 02 Dentists as First Aiders	15
2004 02 Event First Aiders	15
2004 02 Latex Gloves	15
2008 10 First Aid Training	14
#Internet Safety Pledge.....	11
#Money-Earning	
2004 01 Commercial Product	18
2004 01 Group Sponsorship.....	18
2009 08 Product Sale	3
#Product Sale	3
2008 07 Council Sale Activity #30.....	3
2009 08 Activities Involving Money #28	
.....	3
2009 08 Council Product Sale Awards	6
2009 08 Online Guidance	4, 5
#Product Sale Activity Checkpoints	7
#Program	
2004 02 Diving Boards and Slides.....	17
2004 02 Driver Qualifications	16
2004 02 Fifteen Passenger Vans	17
2004 02 Level Determination	16
2004 02 Name Tag Safety.....	16
2004 02 Permission Slips.....	16
2004 02 Propane Products	17
2004 02 Site Evacuation	16
2008 10 Ratios with Grade Level	13
#Travel	
2009 03 Global Travel Kit.....	12

By Topic

15 Passenger Vans.....	17
Age International Travel	12
Application of Lotion	15
Bicycling	12
Camping with Daisies	13
Canoeing.....	16
Commercial Product.....	18
Council Product Sale Activity #30.....	3
Council Product Sale Awards	6
CPR Certification 02/04	15
Dentists as First Aiders.....	15
Diving Boards Pools.....	17
Driver Qualifications.....	16
Event First Aiders.....	15
Fifteen (15) Passenger Vans.....	17
First Aid Training Courses 2008.....	14
Future Activity Checkpoints	1
Global Travel Kit.....	12
Group Sponsorship.....	18
Intent to Travel	12
Kayaking	16
Latex Gloves.....	15
Letter of Introduction	12
Level Determination.....	16
Name Tag Safety	16
Online Guidance.....	4
Online Social Networking Sites	5
Orienteering.....	16
Permission Slips	16
Propane Products.....	17
Rafting.....	16
Ratios with Grade Level.....	13
Site Evacuation.....	16
Slides Pools	17
Standard 28	3
Standard 29.....	18
Standard 30.....	3
Standard 31	6
Swimming in Yard, Hotel, Ship Pools	15
Visiting World Centers.....	12

09/09

Girl Scout Program Standards and Activity Checkpoints Related To Girl Scout Product Sales, Money-Earning, and Internet Use

Standard 28 (Changes in effect 7/2008) - *Activities Involving Money*

Girl Scout Groups are financed by dues, money earning-activities, and a share of money earned through council-sponsored product sale activities. Girl Scout Daisies may be involved in council-sponsored product sale activities only, and not collect money in any other way except through group dues or parental contributions. (Amended by GSUSA Board 6/15/2008.)

“Group money-earning” refers to activities following a planned budget and carried out by a girl/adult partnership, for the purpose of earning money for the group treasury. “Council-sponsored product sales” are councilwide sales of authorized products, such as Girl Scout Cookies, calendars, magazines, nuts, and candy.

The funds collected are for Girl Scout activities and are not to be retained by individuals as their personal property. Girls can, however, be awarded sales incentives and/or credits to apply to Girl Scout merchandise and/or activities.

Girls' participation in group money-earning projects or council-sponsored product sale activities is based upon the following:

- Voluntary participation
- Written permission of a parent or guardian
- Council guidelines
- An understanding of—and ability to interpret to others—why the money is needed
- Correct business procedures
- Observance of local ordinances related to involvement of children in money-earning activities, as well as meeting health and safety laws
- Adherence to guidelines for personal protection
- Planned arrangements for safeguarding the money

Girl Scouts (acting in their role as Girl Scouts) may not raise or solicit money for other organizations. However, girls may contribute a portion of their group treasury to organizations or projects they consider worthwhile (for example, local or international community service organizations or environmental projects) if they have funds that are not needed for activities during the year.

Encourage girls to designate a portion of their group treasury for the annual membership dues of members. This is a sound and efficient practice that both enables girls to meet membership dues and lessens the potential burden to individual members.

See Activity checkpoints for Girl Scout Cookie/Council-Sponsored Product Sale Activities, as well as Safety-Wise Standard 29 (Group Money-Earning Activities), 30 (Council-Sponsored Product Sale Activities), 31 (Council-Sponsored Product Sale Awards), 32 (Council Fund-Raising), 33 (Fund-Raising for Other Organizations), 34 (Collaborations with Other Organizations), and 35 (Political Activity). Standards 29, 32, 33, 34, and 35 have no revisions.

Standard 30 (Revised 7/2008, 7/2009) - *Council-Sponsored Girl Scout Product Sale Activities*

Girls can participate in no more than two council-sponsored product sale activities each year, and only one of these may be a cookie sale. The percentage of money allocated to participating groups is determined by the council and is explained to girls and adults as part of the product sale activity orientation. Girl Scout Daisies may participate in council-sponsored

product sales in girl/adult partnership as part of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. (Amended by GSUSA Board 6/15/2008.)

The selling of Girl Scout Cookies or other council-sponsored products is an integral part of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, built around on financial literacy. Girls also learn to set goals, budget, plan, market to others, work as a team, and develop other skills necessary to a successful sale activity. Adults serve in a supporting role but should never assume sole responsibility for sales. Refer to the activity checkpoints for "Girl Scout Cookie/Council-Sponsored Product Sale Activities."

All girl members may participate in council-sponsored product sales activities, under volunteer supervision. Councils set guidelines and establish procedures for conducting the sale and determining how the proceeds and recognition system will be managed. Councils also provide training on the procedures to follow, through a cascading staff and volunteer effort. Adults must monitor, supervise, and guide the sale activities of all grade levels. Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors who participate in door-to-door sales must be supervised by an adult. All girls use the buddy system at all times.

Adult volunteers, girls, and their families should understand how cookie proceeds are used, so that they can explain this to the public. Parents and guardians grant permission for girls to participate and are informed about the girls' whereabouts when they are engaged in product sale activities.

The council retains some of the proceeds resulting from product sales to support program activities and participation of all registered Girl Scouts. Income from product sales does not become the property of individual girl members. Girls are, however, eligible for incentives and cookie credits if their council offers them.

When selling, girls should be identifiable as Girl Scouts by wearing a Membership Pin, official uniform, uniform component, or Girl Scout clothing.

Money due for sold products should be collected when the products are delivered to the customer or as directed by the Girl Scout council. Personal customer information should remain private. In particular, customer credit-card information obtained at booth sales or other events should not be held or collected on paper by girls.

Basic Online Guidance for Product Sales

Girls can use e-mail and age-appropriate Internet functions as online marketing tools to let family, friends, and former customers know about the sale and collect indications of interest.

Any use of the Internet as an online marketing tool by councils and girls must adhere to current GSUSA and Internet provider guidelines related to:

- Safety
- Internet etiquette
 - Age requirements
 - Parent/guardian permission
 - Adult oversight
 - Council jurisdiction (by Zip codes of the council)

Guidelines for online product sales include use of parentally supervised e-mail and texting as a marketing tool, and/or use of a customer commitment tool (such as an e-card or blind e-mail provided by product vendors) to communicate with family, friends, and former customers.

- Product related e-mail is not intended to be spam (unwanted e-mail). Girls or their parents should not broadcast e-mails to parental membership lists or place-of-employment e-mail directories.
- Girls or their parents or a third party may not accept payment for Girl Scout product to be sold by girls online, with the exception of Girl Scout magazine vendors.
- Customer e-mail addresses from current and past years should be treated with respect, and girls should be instructed on privacy issues.

As a Girl Scout, girls must never:

- Use or post a personal e-mail, personal street address, or phone number on a site. Instead, use a blind e-mail provided by GSUSA-approved vendors, a group e-mail address, or an e-mail address shared by an adult.
- Take orders from prospective customers outside of the council's Zip code. Refer an online prospect from outside the council's Zip code to www.girlscoutcookies.org to find a local council that can deliver cookie orders.

The Girl Scout council should have a system in place that instructs girls how to follow-up and be involved when GSUSA referrals are sent to the council from girlscoutcookies.org. Any referrals via girlscoutcookies.org or other cookie finders related to Zip codes should be fulfilled by and credited to girls. Remember that Girl Scout councils do not sell cookies; girls sell cookies.

Girls must stick to council Zip codes as sales territory unless their council makes specific arrangements that are agreed to with adjacent councils (such as a regional mall shared by council customers). Even within a council's Zip code, however, girls and their parents or guardians must be willing to make delivery arrangements. Girls may also sell to relatives outside of a council Zip code.

Online Social Networking Sites

Any use of a social networking site (such as Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, YouTube, Flickr) for Girl Scout program activities, including marketing and/or collecting customer commitments must:

- Meet age limits and terms of use requirements set by the provider and laws governing Internet usage (age 13 and above).
- Have parental permission for use of the tools and for posting of any photos.
- Reference the www.lmk.girlscouts.org for guidance around social network safety.
- Follow safety guidelines for Girl Scout product sales in any follow-up on orders.

Any use of online video sharing sites where the video is representing Girl Scouts or Girl Scout product must follow specific age and requirements for that site, as well as follow any council guidelines and have Girl Scout photo release forms signed by parents/guardians and any adults pictured. It is recommended that forms be scanned and stored electronically by the adult in charge and/or the council.

Standard 31 (changes in July 2008) - *Council-Sponsored Product Sale Awards*

Groups and individuals may choose to earn council product sale awards. Awards are program-related and of a type that will provide opportunities for girls to participate in Girl Scout activities.

Girls may earn official Girl Scout grade-appropriate awards related to product sale activities as a part of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. In addition, each council may choose to provide participants items such as participation patches, sales awards, and council credit for camperships, event fees, day camp fees, grants for travel and Take Action projects, and materials and supplies for program activities to participants.

The council plan for recognition applies equally to all girls participating in the product sale activity. Where at all possible, councils should involve girls in the selection of awards and administration of money given to girls from product sales (such as an application process for grants for leadership projects or travelships).

(Standards 29, 32, 33, 34, and 35 remain the same.)

Girl Scout Cookie/Council-Sponsored Product Sale Activities

Activity Checkpoints (Revised for 2009)

- Written permission is obtained from a girl's parent or guardian before the girl participates in a council product sale. Specific permission must be given for a girl's use of the Internet for product marketing. A parent, guardian, or other adult must know each girl's whereabouts when she is engaged in product sales, and if and when she is involved on the Internet.
- Girls may use phones and e-mail messages to alert friends and relatives to product sales and accept customer commitments as mail or call backs for the Girl Scout Cookie sale. Girl Scout cookie product partners are providing secure sites for girl use. Girls who are 13 or over may use social networking sites to market product; however, they must follow their council's and GSUSA guidelines.
- Girls writing notes for recipients of product e-mails or announcements online should sign with their first name only, their troop/group number or name, and their council name. Personal e-mails or street addresses of girls should never be used. Instead, use one of the following:
 - A blind return address account where the girls' name or personal e-mail is not revealed to the customer and is instead hosted on a secure site (such as provided by our product sale partners)
 - A troop/group account monitored by an adult
 - An adult e-mail account supervised by an adult

Order Taking and Selling

- The Girl Scout Cookie and other product sale activities are girl-led. Parents and guardians should receive information as to their role in helping girls in the sale from the adult in charge and the council. Adults may assist, but cannot sell Girl Scout products.
- The role of the Girl Scout Daisy adult is fully explained in online materials on the GSUSA Web site, www.girlscouts.org, under Girl Scout Central: Cookies.
- Adults must provide supervision and guidance for all grade levels. Adults must accompany Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies and Juniors when they are selling, taking orders for, or delivering cookies. Supervision extends to any online activity.
- Girl Scouts should observe council jurisdiction (by Zip codes) when marketing product in person or online. Prospects that come from outside council jurisdiction should be referred to the council finder at www.girlscoutcookies.org. Girl Scouts should observe council jurisdictions when selling cookies in a parent's or guardian's place of work, unless arrangements are made to accommodate all Girl Scout families connected to that workplace.
- Girl Scout Cadettes through Ambassadors must sell in the buddy system and have adult oversight.
- Girls learn and practice personal protection skills as outlined in GSUSA- and vendor-provided activity materials. For example:
 - A designated adult's telephone number and/or group e-mail overseen by an adult is given for reorders or complaints; a girl does not give out her telephone number or personal e-mail.
 - Girl Scout Cookies® and Girl Scouts® are trademarked by Girl Scouts of the USA and cannot be used to endorse products or services. Any questions regarding the use of Girl Scout Cookies or the name Girl Scouts must be addressed to the Girl Scout council or trademarks@girlscouts.org.
- The Girl Scout name, Girl Scout Cookies® and Girl Scout marks, as well as pictures of Girl Scout Cookie boxes or cookies themselves can be used only by Girl Scout councils and by girls in conjunction with Girl Scout cookie program. These rights are not transferable to customers or businesses purchasing cookies for use with gifting or promotional activities.

In Addition, Specifically for Girl Scout Daisies

- Materials provided by GSUSA for Girl Scout Daisies focus on engaging girls in selling to friends (including neighbors) and family. This approach is based upon:
 - The attention span and physical abilities of the girls
 - The need for one-on-one supervision when handling money (the adult should hold all money)
 - The involvement of parents or trusted adults in goal-setting and ensuring that goals are appropriate for the group or individuals
 - The importance of providing girls with a foundation in the basics of product-related activities
- Adults supervising girls should understand the product sale activity objectives and how to support the girl in her understanding of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. It is important that girls achieve success in selling their product with adult partnership, focusing on the Girl Scout processes of girl-led, learning by doing, and cooperative learning.
- It is not appropriate for Girl Scout Daisies to be marketing online through their troop or group, parent or guardian Web sites, or social networking sites. Girl Scout Daisies may send out e-mails only if working with an adult, and should use blind e-mails or the online marketing tools provided by GSUSA product vendors on their Web sites.

Computer and Online Safety

Activity Checkpoints (Revised for 2009)

Electronic access to the Internet is a rich resource for programmatic activities. A group working with an adult volunteer may wish to do such things as:

- Earn a technology award or other award found online
- Send an e-mail to market Girl Scout Cookies using the online marketing tools offered on Girl Scout product vendor Web sites
- Search for other Girl Scout council or group Web sites
- Research a badge or community resource
- Visit the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts' (WAGGGS) website (www.wagggsworld.org) or member countries' Web sites
- Create a static Web page on the Internet (a static Web page is one that looks the same each time users view it; they are not allowed any input on the page)
- Set up a secure, password-protected Web site with a calendar and information for girls and families
- Use Girl Scout vendor Web sites to learn more about product activities
- Set up a social networking page (ages 13 and above)

Girl Scout Resources

GSUSA maintains an extensive Web site with many topics of interest for its members and the general public at www.girlscouts.org, with specific sections, such as Girl Scout Central, which is designed to answer your Girl Scout-related questions, and the GSUSA Council Finder. Additional Web site addresses include:

- Go Girls Only (www.gogirlsonly.org/), for girls grades 1–6
- STUDIO 2B (www.studio2b.org), for teens
- LMK (www.lmk.girlscouts.org), a site on Internet safety for teens
- Let Me Know (www.letmeknow.girlscouts.org), a site on Internet Safety for adult volunteers and parents/guardians
- The Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace (www.juliettegordonlowbirthplace.org) in Savannah, Georgia
- Girl Scout Cookies (www.girlscoutcookies.org), for information on Girl Scout Cookies

Each Girl Scout council also has its own Web site address. These can be found by using the GSUSA Council Finder at www.girlscouts.org. Some parts of councils Web sites may be password protected, which means volunteers and girls will need to check with their council for levels of access.

Planning and Supervision

- Recruit a consultant with knowledge of computers if adult volunteers or girls need assistance with activities related to computers or the Internet.
- Identify a location that provides group members with opportunities to use computers and access the Internet. Look for computers available for group use at a library, Girl Scout program center, school or college computer lab, computer rental store with training facility, or science museum. Make sure that there are enough computers for each girl to learn by doing, even if there is some sharing (cooperative learning) is involved.
- Before girls use the Internet, copy and distribute the Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge. (This is available online through a link from the footer of all GSUSA Web pages, as well as part of this document.) Discuss online safety issues with the girls, so they know how to conduct themselves safely on the Internet. Have all girls read, agree to, and sign the Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge; a parent or guardian also needs to sign.
- For girls in fifth grade and above, we suggest visiting Let Me Know (lmk.girlscouts.org), a site addressing Internet safety for teens and tweens. Girls can earn an online award for completing activities on this site.
- Monitor the Web sites that girls view, ensuring that they are both safe and actively controlled. Discuss the kinds of information girls should not disclose to strangers.
- Ask each girl to discuss Internet safety with a parent, guardian, or adult volunteer who is doing computer activities with her.

Online and Product Sales

- Refer to the activity checkpoint on Girl Scout Cookie/Council-Sponsored Product Sale Activities for online product activities.
- No girl or adult acting on the behalf of girl members can collect money online for Girl Scout product or a money-earning activity online. The only exception to this is GSUSA approved magazine vendor programs.

Troop or Group Web Sites

- A group that wants to design a Web site must understand that the Web is an open medium for anyone. An open site will attract more than the intended users. Documented instances of cyberstalkers make it imperative that any information that could jeopardize the safety and security of girls and adults is not disclosed on a Web site.
- To ensure the girls' safety:
 - Use girls' first names only.
 - Never post girls' addresses, phone numbers, or e-mail addresses.
 - Always have a parent's or guardian's permission when using pictures of girls on a Web site.
 - Do not post addresses of group meeting places or dates and times of meetings, events, or trips.
 - Do not allow automatic posting of messages to a Web site. All postings (such as message boards or guest books) should have adult oversight and be screened prior to posting live.
 - Ensure that the site does not show personal e-mail addresses. Use a troop or group e-mail, or use an adult's e-mail.
- An adult volunteer who wishes to communicate upcoming events with families of girls should use e-mail instead of posting details on a Web site, unless that site is password protected.

Web Site Links

- Be careful when selecting links to other Web sites that show on your site. The contents of potential links should be in keeping with Girl Scout principles and activities. Avoid linking to commercial sites selling merchandise to avoid implied Girl Scout endorsement of the products they offer.
- Seek out sites that:
 - Enhance girls' participation in Girl Scouting

- Are tasteful
- Are grade-level-appropriate
- Show diversity
- Are beneficial for girls, volunteers, and families.
- Are in keeping the Girl Scout organization's purpose.
- Fully explore each Web site link to determine that its content is appropriate to a Girl Scout audience. As a courtesy, e-mail the site's Webmaster, requesting permission to link to the site. Use similar criteria to determine what sites link to your group's Web site.

Use of Copyrighted Material

- A group Web site may not use copyrighted designs, text, graphics, or trademarked symbols without specific permission from the copyright or trademark holder. The basic principle is that if it is not yours, don't use it. Trademarks owned by GSUSA include:
 - The trefoil shape
 - Daisy Girl Scout Pin and Brownie Girl Scout Pin
 - Girl Scout pins, both contemporary and traditional
 - The words Girl Scout Daisy, Girl Scout Brownie, Girl Scout Junior, Girl Scout Cadette, Girl Scout Senior, Girl Scout Ambassador, Girl Scouting, Girl Scouts, and Girl Scout Cookies
 - Girl Scout Brownie Try-its, Girl Scout Junior Badges, and all Girl Scout Cadette-Ambassador Interest Project awards, their names and symbols, as well as all Girl Scout Journey insignia
- Information on use of GSUSA graphics and trademarks can be found at www.girlscouts.org under Girl Scout Central: Graphics Gallery, and under the link for Terms and Conditions on each GSUSA web page footer.
- Girl Scout trademarks can be used only in accordance with guidelines for their use. The Girl Scout trefoil, for example, may not be animated or used as wallpaper for a Web site. Check with your council's Web site for complete graphics guidelines and approvals.
- Some names (such as commercial products and cartoon characters) are also trademarked and cannot be incorporated into Web site addresses.
- Permission is also required from the author or publisher for Web use of videos and music. Do not post words to copyrighted songs, poems, or book content, as permission must be granted from the record label, publisher, artist, poet, or author and is nearly impossible to obtain.

Social Networking Sites and Other Online Tools

- Groups whose girls meet age criteria and parental permission may set up a troop or group social networking site. This site must be approved by the council.
- Any Girl Scout use of a social networking site (such as Facebook, Twitter, and MySpace) for communication must:
 - Have parental permission.
 - Meet age limits set by the provider, which is 13 and above in most cases, as per the United States Child Online Privacy and Protection Act (COPPA) and the Child Online Protection Act (COPA).
 - Reference the www.lmk.girlscouts.org for guidance around social network safety.
- Any online marketing using social networking tools must follow those guidelines outlined under Standard 30.
- Any appearance in a Girl Scout-related video or picture posted online must have permission from each girl's parent or guardian, using the GSUSA girl/adult permission form. These should be held by the adult volunteer and/or council.

Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge¹ for All Girl Scouts (Revised for 2009)

- I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number(s), parent's or guardians' work address/telephone number(s), and the name and location of my school without the permission of my parent or guardian.
- I will tell an adult right away if I come across or receive any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.
- I will always follow the rules of Internet sites, including those rules that are based on age of use, parental approval and knowledge, and public laws.
- I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online without first checking with my parents or guardians. If my parents or guardian agree to a meeting, I will arrange it in a public place and bring a parent or guardian along.
- I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parent or guardian.
- I will talk with my parent or guardian so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide on the time of day that I can be online, the length of time that I can be online, and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not access other areas or break these rules without their permission.
- I will not use the Internet to collect money for Girl Scout products, and I will follow all safety guidelines related to Girl Scout product sales.
- I will practice online "netiquette" (good manners) at all times when online.
 - I won't spam others.
 - I will not bully nor will I tolerate bullying (and I will always tell a trusted adult if this is a problem).
 - I won't use bad language.
- I will be guided by the Girl Scout Promise and Law in all that I do online.

Signed,

Girl Scout _____ Date _____

Parent or guardian _____ Date _____

¹ The GSUSA Online Safety Pledge is based upon the Online Safety Pledge developed by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (www.missingkids.com).

03/09

Bicycling Note

“National Organizations” section on page 98: The Hostelling International-American Youth Hostels (www.hiayh.org) no longer provides information on bicycle safety.

03/09

Trips, Travel, and Transportation with Girl Scouts Procedures for International Travel

The following information replaces the Safety-Wise (2000 edition) “Procedures for International Travel” section on page 143 and updates the “Trips to Other Countries” section on page 59.

Global Travel Toolkit

Girl Scout troops/groups planning an international trip are encouraged to use the Global Travel Toolkit. The toolkit is a nuts and bolts resource for international travel, including planning advice, procedures for international travel, budgeting suggestions, cultural recommendations, and resources on Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting around the world.

The Global Travel Toolkit will be available in April 2009 for download your at www.girlscouts.org/global. In the meantime, if you seek resources or travel advice, please contact globalgirlscouting@girlscouts.org

Age Requirements for International Travel

International trips are available to Girl Scout Cadettes and older Girl Scouts who have successfully participated in a progression of overnight trips in their troop or council. Adult advisors should ensure that girls are mature enough to participate in the trip. Factors to consider are adaptability, good decision-making, previous cross-cultural experience, group dynamics, team capability, language skills (where applicable) and specific skills and interests. Girl Scout councils and WAGGGS World Centers may have additional guidelines regarding age requirements.

Monitor the United States State Department Web site for travel advisories at www.state.gov/travel/ for all international travel.

Letter of Introduction

The WAGGGS Card of Introduction (blue card) is no longer required for international travel. However, if your troop/group is staying in a community for at least **THREE** days and willing to collaborate on a **TAKE ACTION PROJECT** with local Girl Guides or Girl Scouts is interested in connecting with Girl Guides or Girl Scouts abroad, a letter of introduction can be sent on your behalf. Please submit an Intent to Travel form indicating that you would like a letter of introduction.

Intent to Travel

All troop/groups traveling internationally must notify their council and submit an Intent to Travel form to GSUSA three to six months before departure: www.girlscouts.org/program/gscentral/forms/. This form replaces completely the Intent to Travel Forms A and B from the Safety-Wise 2000 edition, pages 144-145.

Visiting World Centers

Contact the world centers directly to make reservations:

Our Cabaña, México: www.ourcabana.org/

Pax Lodge, England: paxlodge.org/

Our Chalet, Switzerland: www.ourchalet.ch/en/home

Sangam, India: sangam.wagggsworld.org/

10/08 (revised 02/09)

Grade level Ratios with current Safety-Wise (2000) Edition

The New Girl Scout Leadership Experience provides direction for Girl Scout program adapted to meet the developmental, educational, emotional, and social needs and interests of girls at the six Girl Scout grade levels.

National Standard Adult-to-Girl Ratios – Girl Scout Grade Levels						
Girl Scout Grade Level	Grade	Troop/Group Size: Number Of Girls	General Meetings Two Non-Related Adults (At Least One Of Whom Is Female) For Each Number (Below) Of Girls	Plus One Adult For Each Additional Number (Below) Of Girls	Events, Trips, And Camping: Two Non-Related Adults (At Least One Of Whom Is Female) For Each Number (Below) Of Girls	Plus One Adult For Each Additional Number (Below) Of Girls
Girl Scout Daisy	K–grade 1	5–15	12	6	6	4
Girl Scout Brownie	Grades 2–3	5–25	20	8	12	6
Girl Scout Junior	Grades 4–5	5–30	25	10	16	8
Girl Scout Cadette	Grades 6–8	5–30	25	12	20	10
Girl Scout Senior	Grades 9–10	5–30	30	15	24	12
Girl Scout Ambassador	Grades 11–12	5–30	30	15	24	12

Girls with disabilities that receive special education services may be enrolled as a Girl Scout until the age of 21. Girls should be placed with peers of their same chronological age and wear the uniform of that grade level.

Girl Scout grade level is determined by the current membership year, beginning October 1st.

10/08 Camping (Safety-Wise, p. 84)

Under the leadership of an adult, a Girl Scout Daisy troop may participate in an occasional overnight camping experience.

Girl Scout Daisies who have completed kindergarten may independently participate in day camp and resident camp experiences lasting up to three nights.

Girl Scout Daisies who have completed first grade may independently participate in resident camp experiences lasting four or more nights.

10/08 First-Aid Training

First-aid offerings listed in the chart on p. 37 of Safety-Wise are provided online by the sponsoring organization and include a face-to-face participant skills assessment. The course may be accepted as meeting the recommendation.

National first-aid programs may be submitted for review throughout the year. Girl Scouts of the USA routinely reviews such programs so as to expand the courses available to our membership. Councils may review local offerings, compare the content to the national recommendations, and make decisions concerning their area's resources.

For more information regarding what level of training is needed for different activities, and when it is needed, please consult Safety-Wise (pg 36).

National First-Aid Programs

Organization	Courses for First-Aider, Level 1	Courses for First-Aider, Level 2
American Red Cross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community First Aid and Safety including CPR or • Standard First Aid including CPR Child Care (for Girl Scout Daisy leaders) including CPR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport Safety Training or • Standard First Aid including CPR, plus First Aid, When Help Is Delayed, or • First Aid Responding to Emergencies or • Emergency Response*
American Safety and Health Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic First Aid plus CPR for School and Community or the Workplace or • Basic Wilderness First Aid plus CPR for the School and Community or Workplace 	CPR Training and one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilderness First Aid • Wilderness First Responder • Wilderness EMT Upgrade*
Emergency First Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Care (CPR) plus Secondary Care (First Aid) 	
Medic First Aid International, Inc. (Formally EMP America)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Plus CPR, AED, and First Aid for Adults • Basic CPR and First Aid for Adults • Pediatric Plus CPR, AED, and First Aid for Children, Infants, and Adults • Pediatric CPR and First Aid for Children • Care Plus CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for Adults, Children, and Infants • Emergency Care First Aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Life Support for Professionals (BLSPRO)
National Safety Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard First, CPR and AED or • Pediatric First Aid, CPR and AED 	
Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunity (SOLO)		Any standard CPR with one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilderness First Aid (WFA) • Wilderness First Responder (WFR) • Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician (WEMT)
American Heart Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heartsaver First Aid and CPR 	For CPR Training
American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPR and First Aid Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilderness First Responder
EMS Safety Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPR and First Aid Training or • Pediatric First Aid and CPR 	

*These courses far exceed the requirements for Girl Scout first-aiders but may be used.

10/08

Swimming in Backyard, Hotel, and Cruise Ship Pools

There is one lifeguard for 1 to 10 swimmers. The lifeguard is at least 16 years old and has American Red Cross Lifeguard Training certification or the equivalent. An adult trained in water rescue skills is also present. American Red Cross Basic Water Rescue is recommended for this adult and for watchers.

02/04

First Aid

Application of Lotion

Several councils asked how a lotion form may be applied without the perception of inappropriate or misunderstood behavior. It would be recommended to keep to the "safe zones" of the upper back and shoulders. Girls should be able to apply the lotion to any other area. Leaders should put the lotion on the girls' hands and make sure they apply it to themselves properly. We are reminded to check the labels of these products as some need reapplication every 20 to 30 minutes. The Skin Cancer Foundation recommends a minimal SPF (Sun Protection Factor) of 15 and reminds us that every person's skin has a different sun sensitivity level.

CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation) Certification for First-Aider

The person acting as First-Aider must hold a current certification in CPR for the age group for whom they are acting as the primary First-Aider. The certification for CPR should be current.

Dentists as First-Aiders

Dentists may serve as first-aiders for Girl Scout groups at level 1 or level 2 as other health care providers mentioned in Safety-Wise under Courses for First-Aid Training.

Event First-Aiders

Councils conducting traveling or station events where there is a considerable distance between stations should consider having first aiders with each group. An example of this type of event would be if a council is using the public train system of their town to transport the girls from the public pool, the museum and ice rink for "A Day Out and About in Anywhere, USA." The groups would all have a first-aidler traveling with them during the 20-minute train rides so as to insure first aid is available during the entire experience.

Latex Gloves Substitutes

Due to a potential for extreme allergic reactions to latex, Girl Scouts of the USA recommends the use of vinyl or nitrile gloves for first aid, arts and crafts or whenever such barriers are used.

02/04 Program

Canoeing and Kayaking National Organization

American Whitewater has changed their Web address to www.americanwhitewater.org

Program Level Determination (amended 2009)

Program Level is determined by the current membership year. If a girl is registered for the current membership year as a Daisy and is registering for the upcoming year as a Brownie, her program level for the current membership year remains Daisy until the new year begins on October 1.

Orienteering

Competitive Orienteering Courses often require participants to operate independently. While solo competition is not recommended for inexperienced or other program levels, girls 11 to 17 years of age whose skills match or exceed the demands of the course may participate in such competitions. As with all orienteering sites, there should be a clear area of safety (Safety Lane), a specific finish time and location and a Search and Rescue procedure designed by the competitions host and the Girl Scout advisor/leader.

Rafting

Under Rafting, Site, the line should read "No trip is taken on whitewater more difficult than Class IV, as defined" Previously noted under; Water Activities, Rafting, Site.

Program Delivery Site Evacuation Plans

Evacuation plans should include transportation in situations where girls were dropped off. This is especially important if there are not enough vehicles on site during the event/activity to evacuate all participants.

Driver Qualifications

Registered girl members of the current year are not recommended to act as drivers for Girl Scout activities. It may be assumed that Girl Scout activities begin when custody of the participant takes place. To be specific, if travel is part of the activity, travel should be regulated by the Safety-Wise recommendations. Girl Scouts of the USA recommends consulting the state government for the legal definition of "adult" when considering any experienced driver for Girl Scout activities.

Permission Slips

Registered girl members of the current year, regardless of age, are required to have parental/guardian permission slips when required by the council.

Name-Tag Safety

When girl members are traveling alone, in public places, it is not recommended that they wear name badges/tags that are visible to a casual passerby.

Property Considerations

Pool Diving Boards and Slides

Pool diving boards and slide installation should meet local and state guidelines with regard to bounce, water entry angle, maintenance, and water depths. A reputable pool contractor or inspector could be of help in assessing existing diving/sliding areas. The area should be properly marked and separate from other swimming areas. Please see Safety-Wise under Swimming, Diving Areas for specific recommendations.

Product Consideration

Old Propane Products in Tents and Enclosed Areas

United States Consumer Product Safety Commission advises that all old propane portable heaters, lanterns, and stoves not be used inside enclosed areas due to the high risk of oxygen depletion. A new generation of heaters is currently being manufactured with an oxygen depletion system (ODS). Products with ODS are recommended for use in enclosed areas.

For further information, please contact the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission Office of Information and Public Affairs through their Web site www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PREREL/prhtml02/02179.html

15 Passenger Vans

If your council uses 15 passenger vans, Girl Scouts of the USA recommends consulting your insurance carrier and reviewing state and local laws as some states and counties have issued warnings on these vehicles.

01/04 Group Money-Earning Activities

Commercial Products

Many callers have asked GSUSA for a definition of "commercial product" so that they can help interpret Program Standard 29 to their membership. Here is the definition that has been provided by GSUSA to those requests: Anything sold at retail is a commercial product. Girls may not sell commercial products as money-earning activities. The public sees the sale of a commercial product as an endorsement of that product by the seller. Since 1939, the National Board of Directors has had a policy restricting endorsement of commercial products by Girl Scouts. The current policy is found in the current Blue Book of Basic Documents.

Girl Scout troops/groups should be counseled to be realistic about the scale of their projects and trips and choose ones that can be funded by their participation in council-sponsored product sales and other money-earning activities permitted by council policies and practices. Girl Scout troops/groups requesting approval from their council for money-earning projects must follow council procedures, but cannot be given permission to sell items they may create with the Girl Scout service mark or other Girl Scout marks without prior approval from GSUSA. Girl Scout councils are not authorized to grant this approval.

Please note that any council policy statements about girls engaged in earning money should use the terminology money-earning activities. See Program Standard 29 (pages 74-75). The term fund-raising should only be used to refer to the responsibility of adults to support the Girl Scout council.

Group Sponsorship

The statement on page 29 that "Sponsorship in the form of a cash gift of \$250 or more is sent to the council..." has created confusion. It was intended to inform Girl Scout adults that a troop/group leader cannot validate any gift as a charitable deduction. Each Girl Scout council must actively protect its statutory (Internal Revenue Service) eligibility to receive charitable donations, and only councils can provide appropriate acknowledgement to donors as required by the IRS.

Girl Scout leaders should be reminded that any solicitation of businesses, organizations, or individuals must be part of a council's overall fund development plan. The council has to meet its legal obligations to the state in soliciting for donations, to other funders providing support, and under federal statutes for non-profit organizations. By soliciting sponsorships without council approval, Girl Scout groups and individuals place their council in jeopardy by circumventing the council's accountability and authority. The council is encouraged to establish other guidelines or policies on sponsorship to guide leaders through the process.

To clarify the intent of this section, future printings of it will be changed to say:

"Sponsors help the Girl Scout council ensure that all girls in the community have an opportunity to participate in Girl Scouting. Consult your council for information on working with a sponsor. Council staff can give you guidance on the availability of sponsors, recruiting responsibility, and any council policies or practices that must be followed. Community organizations, businesses, or individuals can be sponsors and may provide group meeting places, volunteer time, activity materials, equipment, or financial support for Girl Scout groups.

If your group has a sponsor, your sponsor's contribution can be recognized by sending thank-you cards composed by the girls, inviting the sponsor to a meeting or court of awards, or working together on a service project."

As we look forward to implementing a campaign to include all girls in Girl Scouting, it will be important for councils to have policies and procedures that secure sponsorship monies for groups in need of external financing. Reviewing the publication "Developing Community Sponsorship in Girl Scouting. A Council Guide", CSP 40-113-100 (UPC 40645), will be helpful during this process.

01/04 Typographical Errors

The following corrections, shown in bold, will be made in future printings of Safety-Wise.

Page 98, under "Caving~" column three:

Each person has: a safety helmet that fits properly, with a strong chin strap. For horizontal caves, bump helmets may be used. For vertical caves...

Page 68, column one, last paragraph:

A leader should use parent permission forms provided by the council or get her council's input in developing permission forms for special activities.
