

## GSCM COVID-19 In-person Girl Scout Activities Guidance Update

Effective January 10 through February 20, 2022

The safety of our Girl Scouts and their families, volunteers, and staff remain our paramount priority. We continue to follow the guidance from the Centers of Disease Control (CDC), the State of Maryland, and Girl Scouts of the USA in providing safe in-person Girl Scout activities.

In light of Governor Hogan's recent update on the COVID-19 positivity rate in the state of Maryland (i.e., as of January 10<sup>th</sup> the the State is at a 27.83% positivity rate), as well as the fact is that not every child and adult in Maryland are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, we are enacting the following guidelines:

- As the COVID-19 virus positivity rate is currently well over 5% in Maryland, **from January 10 through February 20, 2022, Troop/Group Overnights, Tent/Outdoor Camping and Extended Travel are suspended.** These types of activities increase the potential for greater exposure to the COVID-19 virus. Per the *GSCM Travel, Special Events, and Money-earning Guidelines* that were updated on June 1, 2021 (and are still in effect), "*Troops and groups may participate in simple overnights, generally located 250 miles of their regular meeting location for a period of one (1) or two (2) nights, so long as the state's COVID-19 positivity rate is below five percent (5%) or if the COVID-19 average daily cases per 100,000 is 0-17.5 in the seven days prior to your outing*". This same guidance pertains to tent/outdoor camping and extended overnight experiences.
- Girl Scout troops/groups and service units may continue to hold meetings or small events/programs in accordance with the GSCM COVID-19 Guidelines. We continue to recommend outdoor and virtual meeting venues as an option, especially when an indoor venue is not conducive to ensuring COVID safety protocols. We recommend troop/group leadership consider outdoor and/or virtual venues especially during the next 4–6-week period (i.e., January 7-February 20, 2022).
- Appropriate face coverings (i.e., masks) are required for all children and adults participating in Girl Scout activities that are held indoors and in situations where members are in close proximity of one another and cannot maintain appropriate social distancing.

At this time, we anticipate this regulation on overnight, tent/outdoor camping, and extended travel will be short-term. However, should circumstances around COVID-19 change between January 10 and February 20, we will provide updated guidance via GSCM publications, emails, and our website.

We thank all volunteers, members, and staff for remaining vigilant in following current GSCM guidelines as we continue to navigate through this challenging time and in keeping our youth and adults safe during Girl Scout activities. GSCM will continue to monitor and assess current COVID conditions and provide updates to our guidance.