

Tips for Planning In-Person Girl Scout Activities during COVID-19



When meeting in person, be sure to follow the most recent [GSNETX In-Person Activity Guidelines](#) and keep in mind that no in-person meeting is completely safe, even when guidelines are followed. As you begin planning an in-person activity and start figuring out how to make it work within current guidelines, consider what the most important things are about the activity and why. If you'd like to discuss your in-person event before you start planning, reach out activityapproval@gsnetx.org.

Meeting Outdoors: Outdoor activities are highly encouraged. When planning, encourage girls to bring their own water bottles to make sure everyone stays well-hydrated. Consider whether restroom facilities are available and let participants know ahead of time. Some outdoor locations to consider include:

- Parks, trails, and outdoor pavilions
- City hall, county court, or other government office grounds
- Parking lots - for example: church, school
- A troop member's yard or driveway
- School fields - baseball, softball, soccer, football

Meeting Indoors: While meeting outdoors is preferred, meeting indoors in large a space that allows for physical distancing is still possible. Some indoor locations to consider include:

- Basketball courts, cafeterias, or gyms at recreation centers or schools
- Places/Houses of worship
- Library activity rooms
- Community rooms at banks, fire stations, or grocery stores
- Retail store classroom spaces, especially craft stores like JoAnn Fabrics and Michael's
- Mall food courts

Availability of these meeting spaces varies by community. The meeting site should be cleaned and disinfected by adults, following CDC guidelines, before and after the meeting.

Helping Girls Manage Physical Distancing: Younger girls may need some help in remaining physically distanced. Consider clearly marking each girl's personal space in a fun way.

- Have each girl sit or stand in her own hula hoop or on her own beach towel, picnic blanket, or yoga mat
- Make and have girls use a Girl Scout classic – sit-upons- to stay in their own space.

- Use sidewalk chalk or lay down tape to draw a “personal space” square for each meeting participant. Girls can decorate their own square while you meet!
- Consider bringing pop-up tents to provide shade and help designate participant “zones”.

Girl Scout Traditions at a Distance

You can still do some of the traditional Girl Scout activities, no matter the distance- sing a song, recite the Promise and Law, and even the famous Girl Scout Friendship Squeeze. Instead of holding hands, when the “squeeze” gets to her she can:

- Do a hand motion or dance move
- Use a noise maker or musical instrument (actual or DIY)
- Tug on a piece of yarn that is spread out for the girls
- Have each girl say, chant, or cheer her name

Planning Physically Distanced Group Activities

Badge-earning steps are certainly on the list of activities that can be managed following health safety guidelines, but consider some of these additional options, as well.

- Drive-in Movie – each girl stays in the car with her caregiver, but go as a troop
- Drive-through zoo or safari - each girl stays in the car with her caregiver, but go as a troop
- Picnic or tea party – each girl brings her own food and drinks but eat together as a group. You can suggest everyone follows the same recipe, tries something new, or sticks to a theme.
- Geocaching
- Bike riding
- Kite flying - get kits for her girl to build her own kite
- Stargazing
- Yoga
- Butterfly release - purchase caterpillars, watch them crystalize, then meet to release

Giving Back to Your Community

- Drive thru food drive to support your local food bank or the North Texas Food Bank
- Trash pick up
- Participate in the [Kindness Rocks Project](#)
- Use troop funds to put together care packages for essential workers
- SWAPS – make SWAPS to leave on neighbors’ porches to show you’re thinking of them

Do you have other creative ideas on how you are making in-person activities work right now?

Please send them to us at connect@gsnetx.org so we can share them with other volunteers.

Shout out to our friends at Girl Scouts of Central Texas and Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council for many of these ideas!