

2025-2026 GSHH Trip & Activity Policy FAQ

Q. What does the new trip policy take effect?

A. Effective 10/1/2025 All trip forms submitted prior to this date that no longer require submission will be closed and the leader will be notified.

Q. What does the new trip policy say?

A. A **Trip and Activity Form is no longer required** for field or day trips and low-risk activities. A form is only required if the trip or activity is one of the following:

- Listed as **high-risk** in *Safety Activity Checkpoints (SACs)*
- An **overnight trip** (any length of stay away from home, including campouts)
- An **extended trip** (three nights or more, domestic)
- An **international trip**
- **Outside of the GSHH seven county jurisdiction**

Q. Why was the trip policy changed?

A. The changes were made to:

- **Streamline the process**
- **Make things easier for volunteers**, allowing leaders to focus on creating fun, meaningful experiences
- Ensure council staff can **focus attention on higher-risk activities** where safety oversight is most critical
- **Enhance the overall Girl Scout experience** by reducing barriers and making troop outings easier and more accessible

Q. What counts as a “trip” under Girl Scouts?

A. A trip is defined as any activity that takes place **outside of the troop’s regular meeting time and space.**

Examples of trips include:

- Going to a local playground or library
- A service project at a food pantry
- Visiting a community business or museum
- Camping overnight

Q. What is considered a “high-risk activity”?

A. High-risk activities are outlined in *Safety Activity Checkpoints (SACs)* because they require **special planning, permissions, or certified instructors** to keep participants safe.

Examples include (but are not limited to):

- Horseback riding
- Canoeing, kayaking, or paddleboarding
- Zip-lining, climbing walls, or rock climbing
- Archery or target sports
- Boating/Water activities
- Activities requiring protective gear or specialized instruction

Important: Always review *Safety Activity Checkpoints*. If the activity is marked as high-risk, a Trip and Activity Form is required—even for short day trips.

Q. What are examples of trips/activities that do *not* require a form anymore?

A. Examples include:

- A walk to a nearby park for badge work
- A visit to the police or fire department
- A troop day at the zoo or aquarium
- Attending a community cultural event or festival
- **ALL trips NOT outlined in Safety Activity Checkpoints as high risk**

Reminder: Even if a form isn't needed, all Girl Scout safety guidelines (SACs, Volunteer Essentials, and council rules) must still be followed.

Q. What are examples of trips/activities that *do* require a form anymore?

A. Examples include:

- Horseback riding at a local stable
- Zip-lining at an adventure park
- Troop overnight at Rock Hill Camp
- Sleepover at the Museum of Natural History in NYC
- Four-day trip to Washington, D.C
- Week-long summer trip to Boston
- International trip to Canada
- Day trip to the Bronx Zoo
- Visit to Liberty Science Center in New Jersey
- Troop trip to Hershey Park in Pennsylvania

Q. Do overnight trips still require a form?

A. Yes. Any overnight activity—whether it's a **campouts, one-night sleepover at a museum, or multi-day camping trip**—requires a Trip and Activity Form.

Why? Overnight trips involve additional considerations such as sleeping arrangements, emergency procedures, and adult-to-girl supervision ratios. Council approval ensures the plans meet Girl Scout safety standards.

Q. If a form isn't required, what do leaders still need to do?

A. Even without trip & activity form submission, leaders are responsible for:

- Notifying Service Unit Manager (if applicable) or Community Engagement Specialist
- Following **Safety Activity Checkpoints** for every activity
- Maintaining appropriate **adult-to-girl ratios**
- Ensuring all **drivers are registered, approved volunteers, and have completed required checks** (if applicable)
- Collecting **parent/guardian permission slips** for activities outside the normal meeting place
- Having an **emergency plan** in place

- Ensuring all adults have access to **first aid kits and emergency contacts**

Q. What if I'm not sure whether my activity requires a form?

A.

- **Step 1:** Check *Safety Activity Checkpoints*. If the activity is listed as high-risk, submit a form.
- **Step 2:** Consider the length of the trip. If it's overnight, extended, or international, submit a form.
- **Step 3:** If still unsure, contact your **Community Engagement Specialist** or council staff for clarification.

Q. Do parent/guardian permission slips still need to be collected?

A. Yes. Regardless of whether a form is required, **written parent/guardian permission is required for all activities outside the regular meeting place.** This ensures families are informed and approve of their child's participation.

Q. Where can I find the Trip and Activity Form and Safety Activity Checkpoints?

A.

- The **Trip and Activity Form** is available on the council website under Forms and Documents.
- The **Safety Activity Checkpoints** can also be found online and should be reviewed before planning any activity.
- **Volunteer Essentials** provides additional guidance on planning safe and fun experiences.

Q. Who can I contact with questions about the new trip policy?

A.

- Your **Community Engagement Specialist** is the first point of contact for questions.
- You may also reach out to Lynn Morales at membercare@girlscoutshh.org with the subject line: **Trip & Activity Question, Troop XXXX**

Q. What resources are available to ease in the Trip & Activity process?

A. View all of our [available resources](#) on our GSHH website.