



GSGWM Summer Troop and Family Camp COVID-19 Guidelines

**Note: Procedures may change as guidelines change
Update: March 15, 2021**

Welcome! GSGWM has created this plan for our summer troop and family camp weekends so you can understand what to expect during your camping weekend while under COVID-19 guidelines. GSGWM is uniquely prepared to welcome Girls Scouts, volunteers, and families from New Hampshire and Vermont to summer camp, and we are experienced at working with multiple state guidelines to ensure the safety of camp community.

This GSGWM guide is based on recommendations of many agencies and over our two state footprint. Please review these guidelines for an overview of what summer camp will look like this summer. If you have additional questions about some aspect of camp, please contact us at customercare@girlscoutsgwm.org or 888-474-9686.

For more information on the resources and guidelines used to create this plan, please see these resources:

- [GSUSA Safety Activity Checkpoints](#)
- [American Camp Association COVID-19 Guidelines](#)
- [State of New Hampshire DHHS camp licensing guidelines](#)
- [State of New Hampshire: Day Camp Guidance](#)
- [State of Vermont Resident Camp Licensing](#)
- [State of Vermont COVID-19 Guidance](#)

General Information

These are the most commonly asked questions; please review this entire guide for more detailed descriptions. From our experience, and those of all camps operating last summer, the best approach is consistent application of all safety procedures - masks, temperature checks, handwashing, distancing, cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing. Thank you for partnering with us to ensure that we all can have the best 2021 summer camp experience possible.

Group Sizes

At this time, summer camps are limited to a total 100 people gathered together, including staff and campers, and the use of small groups of the same people together if meeting over multiple days. As a family, you are your own patrol, or small group.

With troops, your troop is your own patrol, and you may choose to subdivide into smaller patrols of Girl Scouts and volunteer(s).

Each family or troop arriving together will be assigned their own living space picnic table(s), restrooms and handwashing areas. Bathrooms (and showers at Camp Farnsworth only) will be designated male/female.

Personal Items at Camp

We encourage you to pack in a tote or duffel, and bring food in a cooler as refrigeration is not available. Bring all the items you would need for camping in a campground. Remember that alcohol, tobacco, and other items are prohibited at Girl Scout properties. You will not be permitted to drive to your campsite, be sure everything you bring can be carried.

Sleeping spaces have space to store personal belongings under bunks; personal gear you bring to camp will be your responsibility to clean and sanitize when needed.

Arrival at Camp: Self-Assessment and Temperature Check

Before arriving for your weekend, please pre-screen your family or troop using the COVID-19 screening questions (see the health section). Please also take temperatures; anyone with a temperature of 100.4°F or higher will not be allowed to attend. GSGWM summer camps use a touch-free thermometer to take temperatures at arrival. Once checked in for the weekend, families and troop adults are not permitted to leave and return to the camp without notifying the camp staff on site, and no outside visitors or food delivery is permitted. See the Arrival at Camp section for more details.

Pre-quarantine or COVID-19 Testing

At this time, we are not required by state guidelines to have campers show a negative COVID-19 test prior to a weekend at camp. Currently, a 14-day quarantine is required before moving from New Hampshire to Vermont for camping; however, we expect this to be lifted for recreational camping by the June camping season.

Face Masks and Distancing

GSGWM requires face masks be worn unless eating, at the waterfront, or when otherwise unsafe to do so (for example: sleeping). Masks are required at activities or when singing. Campers are encouraged to pack at least one mask for each day of camp; plus a few extra for days at camp that are especially hot or humid and when campers might choose to wear more than one mask in a day.

Families may choose to remove masks when together in their living unit; but must wear them outside of their immediate family living space.

Troops will need to wear face masks at all times unless listed above, or when taking a mask break.

Mask Breaks

Mask breaks can be taken as needed, under specific guidelines. During mask breaks, persons must be stationary and spread out at least six feet apart (for example, lying on the playing field watching clouds).

Handwashing, Restrooms and Showers

Handwashing sinks and restrooms are assigned to a particular family or troop to use. The daily camp schedule allows for times to wash hands and use restrooms before eating, before activities, and whenever needed. All campers and staff will wash hands or use hand sanitizer in between activities. Showers (at Camp Farnsworth) are cleaned daily by camp staff.

Daily Health Screenings

We recommend that you screen your family members or troop members every morning at camp. Screening should include asking each camper their overall health, the Covid-19 screening questions, and a temperature check.

Staffing

Our staff is committed to the safety and well-being of everyone in our camp community. Everyone is health screened into camp, wears masks, socially distances, and follows all procedures to keep our camp community healthy and having fun at camp. Staff who come in daily (kitchen staff) are screened daily and work together as their own patrol group. Per the health department, staff are required to report any symptoms of COVID-19 or close contact to a person with COVID-19 to their supervisor.

International Staff and staff from outside of New England

For summer 2021, we have hired international staff and staff from outside of the New England states to work as Unit Assistants at Camp Farnsworth. These staff will be prescreened before leaving their home country/state, will have quarantined before traveling from their country/state, and will quarantine as a patrol at camp before campers arrive.

Cleaning

Cleaning with soap and water and disinfecting with EnvirOx solution of surfaces (picnic tables, seats); shared spaces (Adirondack, patrol restrooms), and program areas shall be performed by summer camp staff before the start of the camp day, during the day, and in between patrol groups. Indoor spaces (such as bathrooms) may be sanitized and/or disinfected by fogging multiple times per week in a process completed by trained staff. During the camp day, summer camp staff will frequently wipe down high touch surfaces such as door handles.

Severe Weather Emergencies

The most common severe weather emergency at summer camp is a thunderstorm, sometimes with high winds and often with lightning. Camp staff will guide decision making for safety purposes, and families and troops will shelter in the safest structure available to them during these severe weather events. This may

mean staying in their open-air Adirondack (these structures are elevated off the ground, with three solid sides and metal or shingle roof; and one side is screened); a large pavilion structure (open sides, metal or shingle roof, often with plumbing and electric wiring); or a lodge/building; families may be advised to shelter in their personal vehicles.

When using a large building as shelter with multiple families or troops, groups shall be spread out as much as possible and only for the duration of the storm/severe weather alert. During the emergency, everyone will remain with their patrol members as much as is possible, and all safety protocols will continued to be implemented, including the wearing of masks.

Arrival at Camp

We are relying on everyone at camp this summer to take responsibility for their health and the health of our camp community. Before arriving at summer camp, please review these screening questions each day for 14 days before camp, and take temperatures daily; campers arriving with a temperature of 100.4°F or higher will not be allowed to check into camp. If you know that you will not pass the screening, please call camp to let us know you will not be attending due to COVID-19 concerns and we will work with you to reschedule or refund your fees.

Initial Health Screening

During the initial screening into camp our camp staff will wear masks and gloves. We will take your temperature and ask each person these **COVID-19 health screening questions:**

Have you or anyone in your household had any of the following symptoms in the last 10 days:
sore throat, cough, chills, body aches for unknown reasons, diarrhea?

Shortness of breath for unknown reasons, new loss of smell, loss of taste, or fever at or
100.4°Fahrenheit or higher?

Has anyone in your household been exposed to a confirmed case of Covid-19?

Are you ready for me to take your temperature this morning? *GSGWM summer camps use touch-free thermometers.

Following this screening, there is a safety orientation and you can move into your unit, and sign up for activity times.

Check out of camp

Families and troops can check out of camp when they are ready on their last day. Please alert a staff person that you are leaving camp.

Meals at Camp

For most family and troop camping food is the responsibility of each group. Remember to plan and pack accordingly for proper safe food storage.

Troops cooking food together

We suggest your troop plan easy-to-cook meals that have individual girls preparing their own food (kabobs, foil packs, hot dogs on sticks) that minimize sharing of utensils or food contact. Remember to wash, rinse, and sanitize your dishes - review your OAW or BOLS training for a refresher if needed.

Troops at Camp Farnsworth eating in the dining hall

Eating in the dining hall requires that we eat together in patrol groups at tables that are distanced from each other. Patrol groups will wash hands before entering the dining hall and enter through their assigned entrance door. Everyone will use hand sanitizer as they enter the dining hall.

During meals, we are required to limit trips up from the table; only adults should get up to get food or other items. Everyone must wear their masks unless seated at their table and eating. Groups will set and clear their own table at each meal. Tables will be cleared and prepared for dishwashing, and groups will exit the dining hall.

Farnsworth Family Camping Saturday BBQ Dinner:

This will be an outdoor BBQ, served buffet style, with camp staff handling utensils. Families can eat at tables inside the dining hall, on the singing porch, or in front of the Rec Building. Clean up of the disposable plates will be in trash/recycle/compost barrels in each area.

Activities and Program Areas

For every activity area, we wash our hands before the activity, and have hand sanitizer available at the activity to use between contacts with equipment. At all activity areas, masks will be worn unless it is a safety hazard and is expressly written below. Families and troops participate in activities in their patrol groups, and will maintain social distance from other groups.

Camp Songs

Singing is the most traditional part of camp, and we will continue to make this part of our camp day. Many songs at camp are loud, silly, and have arm and leg motions, so spreading out to sing camp songs will feel much the same to our campers. We will sing with face masks on and social distance between singers. Singing grace before dinner will continue.

Evening Campfire

COVID-19 restrictions will require that we participate in our patrol groups, and distanced from each other. Camp staff will work to make sure that skits, songs, and talent highlights are shared with distancing in place and masks worn. These may not look exactly the same, but the campfire spirit will remain part of camp this summer.

Flag Ceremony

Flag ceremony is where we start and end our camp day, where announcements are made, and where our whole camp is gathered twice per day for a few minutes. We will still gather for flag, but we will gather in our patrol groups, with distance between patrols, and masks will be worn.

Field Games/Gaga Pit

Materials that are easily cleaned will be available for play (such as balls, hula hoops, and others with non-porous surfaces). We will wash hands prior and post play, and hand sanitizer will be available. Field games that support physical distancing will be allowed, for example, tag will be played by tagging with pool noodles; fishy, fishy can also be played with pool noodle tagging.

Arts and Crafts

We will spread out at picnic tables and built in tables in and outside the craft areas. Any shared supplies (paintbrushes, scissors, etc.) will be cleaned between uses. Most supplies will be specific to a group.

Low Ropes Course

Participation will be in patrol groups, and we will hand sanitize after each climb on the bouldering wall.

Climbing Tower: Climbing Wall, Cargo Net, Giant's Ladder, Caterpillar, Crate Stacking

Participation will be in patrol groups, and we will hand sanitize after each climbing activity. Gear (harnesses, helmets) will be cleaned between uses.

Target Sports: Slingshots/Archery/Airsoft/Hatchet Throwing

Everyone will be assigned their own safety gear and equipment to use over the course of the activity time. Equipment will be cleaned between groups.

Hiking Trails/Nature Center

There is plenty of space to spread out along the trail. Activities will be completed individually or within patrol groups. Picnic tables will be used to spread out for table activities.

Water Games/Swimming (Pool or Lake)

Groups will have dedicated swim or water games time with their patrol. There is ample space in the swim area to distance from each other; water games involve transfer of water from one space to another, that water will be treated to reduce transfer risks. Masks are not worn while swimming or at the designated water games area.

Canoeing/Kayaks/Paddleboards/Sailboat

PFDs (lifejackets) are cleaned between uses by submersion in an approved disinfecting solution and dried. Participants will have a clean, dry PFD every time they go to boating. Boats and paddles will be cleaned by staff in between camper groups. Masks are not worn once in boats due to the risk of sudden submersion. Lifeguards and Boating Specialists may remove their masks when guarding and when socially distanced for safety and to be better heard.

COVID-19 Exposure at Home or at Camp

Exposure at home

Anyone who refuses to be screened at arrival, who displays symptoms of COVID-19, or who answers yes to any of the screening questions will not be allowed to attend camp.

If a staff member, camper, or anyone in the camper's family has been exposed to COVID-19, they will not be able to attend, and they are advised to complete a 14-day quarantine. Per the health department guidelines, note that our staff are required to report any symptoms of COVID-19 or close contact to a person with COVID-19 to their supervisor.

COVID-19 Symptoms appearing at camp

To investigate any suspected symptoms of COVID-19 that appear during the camp session, staff will wear full PPE- N95 mask, gloves, face shields, and gown. Staff will address immediate health needs up to and including activating EMS. If no emergency or urgent care is required, the ill camper and those in their group will need to leave the camp. Other family groups or troops will be notified of what has happened and we will follow the guidance of the health department to determine continuation of programs. Confidentiality of the person(s) involved will be maintained.

Family Groups

The family will be able to pack and leave camp with minimal contact to staff and other participants.

Troops

We will work with the volunteers to contact your troop members and ensure that every camper can pack their belonging and is picked up from camp by their adult.

Vaccination against COVID-19

Due to the changing state of vaccination groups and availability in states, please refer to your state's vaccination definitions regarding exposure to Covid-19 and quarantine. At this time, vaccinated individuals will still be required to health screen into camp, wear masks, and follow all camp covid-19 procedures.

Camp Closure Due to COVID-19

Camp closure for 14 days will occur as below, or as otherwise advised by the state department of health.

- More than two camper patrols have been quarantined, or
- More than two camp staff have tested positive for COVID-19 at any one time

If camp needs to close, and your program is impacted, we will contact you to arrange a reschedule or refund.