

## Inflatables



### Includes:

- Aquatic inflatables
- Bounce houses and land inflatables
- Bubble soccer
- Log rolling (with synthetic logs)
- Amusement/theme parks with inflatables

### Includes:

- Bounce houses (Permitted for D\* B J C S A, Council Approval: May be required)
- Bubble soccer (Permitted for J C S A, Council Approval: Required)
- Aquatic inflatables (Permitted for B J C S A, Council Approval: Required)
- Amusement/theme parks with inflatables (consult Safety Activity Checkpoints for related inflatable type and for amusement parks)

**Council Approval:** May be required Waiver: Required and attached to this Safety Activity Checkpoint **For all Inflatables:** Certificate of Insurance (COI) is required from vendor providing this activity.

Visit <https://www.girlscoutsni.org/resources#COI> to check list of the COIs on file or to request one.

**Activity Permitted For:** \*D \*B J C S A

## About Inflatables

Most inflatables can be found in public facilities, parks, events, etc. but some commercial ones may be able to be rented. Verify with your council on specific information needed for renting commercial inflatables. Verify with your council if any additional approvals need to be made in addition to checking with local governing agencies to ensure all safety guidelines are being followed.

Aquatic climbing walls, slides, bounce platforms, obstacle courses are made from a variety of materials and placed in the deep end of the pool, or lake. \*Daisies cannot participate in aquatic bounce houses. \*Aquatic climbing walls are not permitted for Daisies and Brownies.

Bounce houses (closed inflatable trampolines, bouncy houses, bouncy castles, moon bounces, moonwalks, jumpers, etc.) and other land inflatables are temporary inflatable structures and buildings used for recreational purposes, particularly for children. \*Daisies may only participate in bounce houses that are specific for their age, height, and/or weight.

Bubble soccer is an exciting twist on the traditional game of soccer. Girls are wrapped in a giant, soft inflatable bubble ball with shoulder harnesses and handles inside. \*Bubble soccer is not permitted for Daisies and Brownies.

Log rolling with synthetic logs can be done in a pool or lake and for girls of all ages.

## **Include Girls with Disabilities**

Talk to girls with disabilities and their caregivers and ask about needs and accommodations. Contact the location in advance to ensure they can accommodate those with disabilities.

Information on accommodations for inflatable parks are similar to amusement parks.

### **Learn More:**

- [International Association of Amusement Parks and Attraction](#)

## **Equity**

In addition to physical and social-emotional disabilities consider the history, culture, and past experiences of the girls in your troop that could affect a girl's ability to equally participate in an activity. Work with girls and families to understand how an activity is perceived. Ensure that all girls and their families feel comfortable that they have access to whatever is needed to fully participate such as the proper equipment, prior experiences and skills needed to enjoy the activity.

## **Safety Activity Checkpoints**

**Standard Safety Guidelines.** Refer to the “Standard Safety Guidelines” section (p. 4 – 22) at the top of Safety Activity Checkpoints. These standard safety guidelines apply to all Girl Scout gatherings and activities. When the adult-to-girl ratio, or other safety parameters, are stricter for a specific activity than in the Standard Safety Guidelines always follow the stricter parameters in the activity chapter.

**COVID-19 Guidelines.** Review the “Coronavirus Safety in Girl Scouts” section under the “Standard Safety Guidelines” (p. 4 – 22) section and be certain to consult your council's specific COVID-19 guidance [here](#). When applicable, always call ahead to the vendor, property or facility involved to check for their COVID-19 safety requirements as you prepare to take girls for this activity.

**Emergency Action Plan (EAP).** Review and document your Emergency Action Plan (EAP) ahead of time before taking girls out for this activity. Think through scenarios of what can go wrong such as an accident, physical injury to a girl or adult, missing girl, or sudden illness.

**Connect with your Girl Scout council for approved sites or site suggestions** to confirm the location is vetted. Allow enough time to have the location approved.

**Select a safe site.** Ensure that sites or rented inflatables follow safety precautions:

- Aquatic climbing walls, slides, bounce platforms, obstacle courses are placed in the deep end of the pool, or lake. Participants need to be strong swimmers who can swim in water deeper than 5 feet. Non-strong swimmers need to wear a life vest, properly fitted and appropriate to their weight.
- Bounce houses and other land inflatables are properly secured to the ground, especially in windy weather. Ensure the number of participants in a bounce house at a time does not exceed manufacturer recommendations for safety. On inflatable slides, obstacle courses, etc. girls take turns and wait for the person before them to exit before going.
- Bubble soccer should be played on a flat area that is free of obstacles, pillars, trees, stumps, rocks, and roots. Only one person in a ball at a time. No rolling down hills while wearing a ball. Bubble should be fully covering at least 8 inches above their head, to allow for roll overs and head protection. Players should not run full speed and should only bump into players with light to moderate speed. Players should not bend down when bumping another player, instead using the sides of the bubble for impact with other players, not the top. Players should not lift the bubbleball via the handles except to get up.
- Log rolling with synthetic logs needs to be done in water that is at least 2 feet deep. Log needs to be at least 10 feet from any obstructions- walls, rocks, trees, beach, etc. Log should be aligned perpendicular (as a T) to dock, pool edge, hard objects, etc. Beginners should have someone holding log as they get on. Non-strong swimmers should wear a life vest, properly fitted and appropriate to their weight if the water is above their knees. Beginners should use “trainers” to slow the log down.

**Inquire about adequate insurance.** The park you attend may or may not be able or willing to provide a certificate of insurance as evidence of one million dollars General Liability insurance and instructor certifications upon request, depending on the size of the group. It's best to inquire and have the conversation in order to verify credibility of the park's management.

**Ensure safety of theme park rides.** Obtain full information about the rides and other activities and evaluate them for safety, especially concerning the age, height, and weight levels of girls.

**For water parks, follow the “Swimming” safety activity checkpoints.** Pay particular attention to water park safety rules. Ensure there are certified lifeguards at each activity. Girls will need to take a swim test prior to the trip to ensure they can swim. It is recommended that swimmers that are not proficient wear a life vest.

**Know where girls are at all times.** Keep track of girls' whereabouts. Conduct a head count before and after activities. Ensure that girls know where to go and how to act when confronted by strangers or intruders.

**Review plans upon arrival.** Adults should obtain a copy of the park guide to facilitate the visit and gain important information on park policies and the location of restrooms and the first aid station.

**Have a predetermined meeting spot.** Adults should discuss plans for the visit with girls and set a place to meet in case the group gets separated.

**Know where the first aid station is located.** Ensure the presence of a first aid kit and a first-aider with a current certificate in first aid, including adult and child CPR or CPR/AED, who is prepared to handle cases of abrasions, sprains, and fractures.

**Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois  
Permission, Waiver and Release of Liability for Indoor Inflatable Activities**

- This two page form is a waiver and release of liability contract between Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois and the participants. Please read it carefully.
- This two page form must be read and signed by the parent or legal guardian of the participant in order for the participant to participate in the activity listed. The form is to be turned in to the troop leader or he/her designee.
- Participants must be old enough to understand the safety procedures so as not to endanger themselves or others.

Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ GS Level \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Participation Date(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any allergies the participant has (food, nature, medications, etc.). \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any restrictions of participant that we should be aware of as she participates in this activity. \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any medications the participant will have with her. \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME OF GSNI APPROVED INDOOR INFLATABLE FACILITY** \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** Indoor inflatable facilities offer a variety of inflatable activities, such as slides, jumpers, obstacle courses, mazes, and more. (The photo at the right is one example of a possible activity.) These facilities are **NOT** owned or operated by Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois.



**Clothing** - Participants should be wearing appropriate clothing:

- Socks required at most facilities
- Jewelry and watches SHOULD NOT be worn.

Additional Activity Information, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that this Indoor Inflatable Activity is a test of a person's physical and mental limits and carries with it the potential for death, serious injury and property loss. The risks include, but are not limited to, those caused by terrain, facilities, temperature, acts of God, weather, condition of participants, equipment, vehicular traffic, actions of other people including, but not limited to, participants, facilitators, volunteers and spectators. These risks are not only inherent to the participants, but also present for volunteers. I hereby assume all of the risks of participating and/or volunteering in this activity. I realize that liability may arise from negligence or carelessness on the part of the person or entities being release, from dangerous or defective equipment or property owned, maintained or controlled by them or because of their possible liability without fault.

I certify that I am physically and mentally fit to participate in this Indoor Inflatable activity. I acknowledge that this Permission, Waiver and Release of Liability for Indoor Inflatable Activities will be used by Girl Scout staff, activity facilitators or their assignees of the activity and it will govern my daughter's actions and responsibilities at the activity. I acknowledge that I must follow the directions and safety rules of the activity and the activity may be cancelled if I do not follow the safety instructions and policies or if my behavior endangers myself or the group.

In consideration of my participation in this program, I hereby take action for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs, next of kin, successors, and assigns as follows: (A) Waive, Release and Discharge from any and all liability for my death, disability, personal injury, property damage, property theft or actions of any kind which may hereafter occur to me including my traveling to and from this program, THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES OR PERSONS: \_\_\_\_\_; their directors, officers, employees, volunteers, facilitators, representative, and agents. (B) Indemnify and Hold Harmless, and Agree Not To Sue the entities or persons mentioned in this paragraph from any and all liabilities or claims made as a result of participation in this program, whether caused by the negligence of releases or otherwise. I hereby consent to receive medical treatment that may be deemed advisable in the event of injury, accident and/or illness during this program.

The Permission, Waiver and Release of Liability for Indoor Inflatable Activities shall be construed broadly to provide a release and waiver to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law. I acknowledge that this Accident Waiver and Release of Liability form will be used by the persons or entities being release in the activity listed above and that it will govern my actions and responsibilities in said activity.

I hereby certify that I have read this document; and, I, understand its content. I am aware that this is a release of liability as well as a contract and I sign it of my own free will.

_____	_____	_____	_____
Print Participant's Name	Age	Signature (if under 18 years old, Parent/Guardian must also sign)	Date

Parent/Guardian Waiver for Minors (Under 18 years old)

I give permission for my daughter to participate in this Indoor Inflatable activity. I understand that there are inherent risks of injury or disability in this activity. I further understand that my daughter must follow the directions and safety rules of the activity. I also understand that the activity may be cancelled if my daughter does not follow safety instructions and policies and/or my daughter's behavior endangers herself or the group.

The undersigned parent and/or legal guardian does hereby represent that he/she is, in fact, acting in such capacity and is fully responsible and agrees to save and hold harmless and indemnify each and all of the parties referred to above from all liability, loss, cost, claim or damage whatsoever which may be imposed upon said parties because of any defect in or lack of such capacity to so act and release said parties on behalf of the minor and the parents or legal guardian.

_____	_____	_____	_____
Print Participant's Name	Age	Signature of Parent/Guardian	Date

If you have any questions, please contact \_\_\_\_\_

For girls not currently registered as Girl Scouts: I understand my daughter is not covered by Girl Scouts of the USA Activity Insurance, but she has my permission to participate in this activity.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Parent \_\_\_\_\_