

GSNI Movie License FAQs

Q: What is a MPLC Umbrella License?

A: A Motion Picture Licensing Corporation umbrella license provides legal permission for organizations to show a wide variety of movies, TV programs, and other content.

Q: Does this movie license cover my service unit?

A: Yes, all service units are covered within GSNI's council jurisdiction.

Q: Does this movie license cover my troop?

A: Yes, if your troop is registered for the current Girl Scout membership year.

Q: Can my service unit and/or my troop show a movie in an outdoor setting?

A: No, this license allows you to show an approved movie indoors only within GSNI's council jurisdiction with these two exceptions:

- Outdoor movies are approved and can be shown with the council movie license at GSNI camp properties only.
- Outdoor movies can be shown (not at our camps but within our council region) with **pre-approval** from the licensing company. To get approval, submit [requests](#) to Lynda Fillipp, GSNI Marketing Manager, at lfillipp@girlscoutsni.org, at least **two weeks** before the date of your movie showing. The request must include description of location, how the movie will be shown (is it possible that people other than audience members will be able to view the movie), and number of audience members.
- Requests for any venue and all related movie showing arrangements must be made by the troop or group showing the movie. This is not GSNI's responsibility.

Q: Can my service unit and/or my troop charge an admission fee for the movie?

A: No, you may not charge admission. However, you may charge for concessions (soda, popcorn, etc.).

Q: Can we advertise and promote the approved **movie title**?

A1: **No**, not on any public facing platform (websites, personal or community social media pages, newspapers, etc.) However, **you may** provide a creative description that omits the title, character/actors' names, and rightsholder name. For example: we may not provide the title *Wizard of Oz*. However, we can promote the showing of a movie classic with hints such as, "I hope you'll join us on the yellow brick road!"

A2: **Yes**, if on internal flyers or emails shared privately with your service unit, troop, or Girl Scout families.

Q: We can't say the name of the movie, but can we include images from the movie on our promotion?

A: No, this would be a copyrighted material violation.

Q: How do I know which movie titles are approved?

A: You must verify a movie title is covered under this license, so you'll follow the below process to do this:

- Check Coverage: To verify if a title is covered under our council umbrella movie license, you need to **first** consult the Internet Movie Database website at IMDb.com. Simply search for the title you want to check and click on your selection.
- Scroll down to the "company credits" section of the page. Click on "see more". On the company credits page, review the "distributors" (for movies) and "production companies" (for TV). The title is covered if the distributor (for movies) or production company (for TV) is listed on the [provided MPLC Umbrella License Producer List](#).
- For example: If you search for *Troop Zero* and follow the instructions outlined above, you will find that *Troop Zero* is distributed by three companies, including Amazon, Big Indie Pictures, and Escape Artists. None of these are on the provided producer list and therefore cannot be shown. However, if you search for *Polar Express*, you'll find it is distributed by Castle Rock Entertainment and Warner Brothers (among others) which are both on the provided producers list.

Q: What if the venue requires a copy of our movie license?

A: Email Lynda Fillipp, GSNI Marketing Manager, at lfillipp@girlscoutsni.org for a copy of the license to share.

Q: If we include showing a movie as one of the activities at our Girl Scout lock-in and charge for the event as a whole, would that be against the rules?

A: No, as long as the event is advertised as a Girl Scout lock-in and not a "movie night".

Q: If I bring a movie from home, does it have to be on the list in order to show it at a troop or service unit event, since I already own the movie?

A: Yes, if you are advertising it as an event within GSNI.

Q: May I show an approved movie virtually during a meeting with my Girl Scout troop or group?

A: Yes, as long as the meeting is a troop or group meeting held within GSNI's council region and is an invitation-only audience.

Q: Does GSNI have screen/projector/sounds projection available for rent?

A: Not currently. There are many audio/visual package rentals available for outdoor movies! Some larger libraries (DeKalb, NIU, Aurora, St. Charles, Elgin, Hanover Park, and Streamwood) have these packages for rental. A Google search can often provide rental information in your area:

- <http://www.mymoonlitmovies.com/>
- <http://novatoo.com/rental/projection-packages/>

Q: Do I need a special permission slip for GSNI Girl Scouts to view a movie shown at a troop meeting or service unit?

A: No, you may use existing permission slips on GSNI's website, including this [Permission Slip](#) or the [Sensitive Issues Permission Slip](#) if the movie rating or subject matter may be concerning.

Q: Does GSNI have screens/projector/sound projection to show movies at our properties?

A: Great question! We are looking into this for the future!

Q: How many cars can GSNI camps accommodate for a drive-in movie?

A: Good question! We are currently researching this information!