



Amusement Parks

Council Approval: Required. This activity is vendor provided only.

Certificate of Insurance (COI): Required from vendor providing this activity for Council Approval. Visit [GSNI's webpage](#) for information on requesting a COI from the venue.

If visiting an amusement park as part of a trip, troops must complete the [GSNI Troop Trip Travel Request Form](#). Visit or COI list for current venues.

Activity Permitted for: D B J C S A

Includes:

- Large theme parks
- Smaller amusement-type parks/Free-standing rides
- Carnivals/County Fairs
- Waterparks or facilities (more than a swimming pool)
- Themed adventure parks
- Controlled go-kart activities

About Amusement Parks

Amusement parks take a wide variety of forms depending on where they are geographically located and the audience they are geared toward. These parks are commercially operated enterprises that offer rides, games, activities, and other forms of entertainment. To ensure a safe park experience, it is important to look at the various activities individually to ensure safety and compliance with Girl Scouts' Safety Activity Checkpoints. For example, some locations may have activities that are not permissible Girl Scout activities, such as bungee jumping. Be sure to identify these prior to making final plans and communicate which activities may be restricted because of age, height, and weight. Also, discuss ride and crowd safety, have a designated meeting space, and encourage Girl Scouts to act responsibly.

Currently 44 of 50 states regulate amusement parks. The six without state oversight are Alabama, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, Wyoming, and Utah. These states contain few, if any, amusement parks. Amusement and other types of adventure parks, as listed above, can be found in most states.

Learn More

- [Saferparks Database](#)
- [Guide to U.S. Theme Parks](#)

Include Girl Scout Members with Disabilities. Talk to Girl Scout members with disabilities and their caregivers. Ask about needs and accommodations. Always be sure to contact the location in advance to understand the accommodations for those with disabilities. Communicate this information with families.

Equity. Find out about age, height, or weight restrictions for park attractions. Communicate these with troop members and their families. Discuss selecting rides or areas of the park that all members can engage in, as well as identifying the rides that interest them. Consider the history, culture, and past experiences of the Girl Scout members in your troop that could affect their ability to equally participate in an activity. Work with members and families to understand how an activity is perceived. Ensure that all Girl Scout members and their families feel comfortable and have access to whatever is needed to fully participate, such as proper equipment, prior experiences, and the skills needed to enjoy the activity. See the Equity section of the [Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) for general advice about equity.

Emergency Action Plan (EAP). Review and document your Emergency Action Plan (EAP) before starting any activity and review it so all are prepared. Think through scenarios of what can go wrong such as an accident, physical injury, missing person, sudden illness, or sudden weather or water emergencies.

Amusement Park Checkpoints

Connect with your Girl Scout council for approved sites or site suggestions to ensure the location is vetted. If it is not, allow enough time to have the location approved.

Inquire about adequate insurance. The park you attend may or may not be able or willing to provide evidence of one million dollars general liability insurance and instructor certifications upon request (depending on the size of the group). It is best to at least 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 with a special focus on the age, height, and weight levels of riders.

Waterpark and Aquatic Additions to Amusement Parks: ensure lifeguards are on duty when visiting. **Follow [Swimming Safety Activity Checkpoints](#).** Pay particular attention to water park safety rules. Ensure there are certified lifeguards at each activity. A swim assessment is strongly recommended prior to the trip.

Follow [Go-Karting Safety Activity Checkpoints](#). Note age restrictions.

Know where individuals are at all times. Keep track of whereabouts. Conduct a head count before and after activities. Ensure everyone knows where to go and how to act when confronted by strangers.

Review plans upon arrival. Adults should obtain a copy of the park guide to facilitate the visit and gain important information on park policies, as well as the location of restrooms and the first aid station. Plan the rides or events to attend with predetermined groups.

Determine a meeting spot beforehand. Adults and Girl Scouts should discuss plans for the visit and set a place to meet (home base spot) if they get separated from the group.

Verify first aid particulars. 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.

All troops should provide one adult volunteer certified in Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED and have their own First Aid Kit on hand at all times.