



Council Approval: Required

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.

A waiver can be found in the [Zip Line SAC file](#).

Activity Permitted for: *D *B J C S A

*Canopy Zip Line Tours are Not Permitted for Daisies and Brownies.

*Daisies can only participate in Playground Zip Lines.

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois' Property Specifications:

Troops must hire a GSNI trained facilitator for zipline activities at GSNI camp properties.

Mary Ann Beebe Center's Zipline: To participate in the Zipline at Mary Ann Beebe Center, riders must be a Girl Scout Brownie (2nd grade) and older, weigh between 60 – 200 pounds, and be no taller than 5'9". The Mary Ann Beebe Center Zipline is geared for youth participants only.

About Zip Lining

A zip line consists of a pulley suspended on a cable, usually made of stainless steel, mounted on an incline. It is designed to enable a user, propelled by gravity, to travel from the top to the bottom of the inclined cable by holding on to, or attaching to, the freely moving pulley. The various types of zip lines include:

- **Playground Zip Lines.** These are short and low, intended for child's play, and found at some playgrounds and recreation venues. All Girl Scouts are permitted to use them.
- **Zip Lines.** These are launched from a platform usually accessed by a staircase, ladder, or climbing wall. They are sometimes found as part of a challenge course. Participants must be able to walk short distances and climb stairs or ladders. Check with the venue before arrival to determine its rules on age, height, and weight restrictions. Communicate these restrictions clearly with the troop in advance of the activity.
- **Canopy Zip Line Tours.** These are guided aerial explorations or transits of the forest canopy, commonly done by a series of zip lines or aerial walkways with platforms. Canopy tours are not permitted for Daisies and Brownies. In addition, check with the venue before arrival as many have minimum age requirements as well as height and weight restrictions. Communicate these restrictions clearly with the troop in advance. If some cannot participate, consider another location. If participating in canopy zip line tours, troops must provide one adult certified in Adult and Pediatric CPR/First Aid/AED AND Wilderness and Remote First Aid or Wilderness First Responder.

Site Selection. Connect with your Girl Scout council for site suggestions. Girl Scouts should use a venue that has professional accreditation by either the Professional Ropes Course Association (PRCA) or the Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) to ensure a regulated experience. Both organizations are accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to develop industry standards and regulations.

Note: Each venue sets its own rules regarding the age and weight of participants, and some states regulate zip lines as amusement rides.

Learn More

- [Association for Challenge Course Technology](#)
- [Specifications Amusement Ride Safety Act](#)

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 and/or the instructor in advance to ensure they are able to accommodate those with disabilities. Some facilities may have specialized harnesses and a ramp (instead of stairs, a tower, or a wall) for people who use wheelchairs. Ensure that a member of the facility’s staff has training and experience helping people with disabilities participate in zip lining. *Note: Some venues will not allow participation if a person has recent or recurring injuries, or muscular or skeletal disorders.*

Equity. 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 expense,

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.

Zip Lining Checkpoints

Verify instructor knowledge and experience. An instructor with Association of Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) certification, or similar documented certifications, is expected to have knowledge and experience setting stop ropes, tying required knots, assisting guests in proper harness and helmet fitting, demonstrating proper zipping techniques, operating the zip line activity, braking guest’s speed upon incoming approach, performing retrievals and rescues, inspecting equipment, and educating guests about the venue. Ensure that the instructor has provided written documentation of completed training. In addition, note that there is a regular process of review and update for all instructors.

Climbing Type	Grade Levels	Safety Standards and Gear	Additional Information
Zip Lining	D*, B*, J, C, S, A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harnesses Helmet Ropes, webbing, and equipment designed for this purpose Close-fitting clothing; no dangling clothing or jewelry Sneakers or other athletic shoes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canopy zip line tours are not permitted for Daisies or Brownies Daisies can only participate in playground zip lines Instructor must have certification from verified organizations such as Professional Rope Course Association or Experiential Systems.

Dress appropriately for the activity. Wear long pants or biker shorts, sturdy closed-toe athletic shoes, a helmet, and a close-fitting top with sleeves. Do not wear dress shoes, sandals, water shoes, flip-flops, skirts, regular shorts, ponchos, or dangling jewelry of any kind. Leave backpacks, purses, or similar items in a car or locker; do not bring anything on the zip line.

All participants may be weighed and have their height measured before being issued zip lining equipment.

Girl Scouts learn about and prepare for zip lining. Instructors need to teach a set of readiness and action commands to all participants before beginning an activity. They must describe the objectives, safety procedures, and hazards to the participants before beginning.

Prepare for landing. Zip line participants should be provided with a hands-on walk-through of what will happen at the landing zone when under full speed. Volunteers must attend the orientation session (even if they will not participate) along with riders and learn what to watch for in order to supervise those in their care.

Girl Scouts practice safe zip line course techniques. Zip line participants should be provided with an explanation of what each piece of gear is used for. Harnesses are designed to support the human body from the hips, and hanging upside down is not permitted.

Safety Gear

- Helmet, which must be supplied by the venue; never zip line without helmets
- Harness, which will be supplied by the venue