

Training

Safety-Wise Clarifications and Updates

The following items are updates and/or clarification to the Safety-Wise© 2000 First Impression 6th printing.

Safety-Wise provides Girl Scout councils with the most current information on health and safety to ensure that the Girl Scout program is delivered in a reasonably safe manner. Girl Scout councils provide volunteers and staff with the interpretation of standards, activity checkpoints and safety guidelines.

FIRST AID

1. Application of Lotion (p. 36, Emergency Procedures and First Aid, Sunburn)

Several councils asked how lotion may be applied without the perception of inappropriate or misunderstood behavior. It would be recommended to keep to the "safe zones" of the upper back and shoulders. Girls should be able to apply the lotion to any other area. Leaders should put the lotion on the girls' hands and make sure they apply it to themselves properly. We are reminded to check the labels of these products, as some need reapplication every 20 to 30 minutes. The Skin Cancer Foundation recommends a minimal SPF (Sun Protection Factor) of 15 and reminds us that every person's skin has a different sun sensitivity level.

2. CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) Certification for First-Aider (p. 37)

The person acting as First-Aider must hold a current certification in CPR for the age group for whom they are acting as the primary First-Aider. The certification for CPR should be current.

3. Dentists as First Aiders (p. 37, Courses for First Aid Training)

Dentists may serve as first-aiders for Girl Scout groups at level 1 or level 2 as other health care providers mentioned in Safety-Wise under Courses for First-Aid Training.

4. Event First Aiders (p. 36, First Aid Courses)

Councils conducting traveling or station events where there is a considerable distance between stations should consider having first aiders with each group. An example of this type of event would be if a council is using the public train system of their town to transport the girls from the public pool, the museum and ice rink for "A Day Out and About in Anywhere, USA". The groups would all have a first aider traveling with them during the 20-minute train rides so as to insure first aid is available during the entire experience.

5. Latex Gloves Substitutes (p. 38, First Aid and Infectious Diseases)

Due to a potential for extreme allergic reactions to latex, Girl Scouts of the USA recommends the use of vinyl or nitrile gloves for first aid, arts and crafts or whenever such barriers are used.

PROGRAM

1. Canoeing & Kayaking National Organization (p. 116, Canoeing, p. 118 Kayaking)

American Whitewater has changed their Web address to www.americanwhitewater.org

2. Program Age Level Determination

Program Age Level for Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors is determined by the current membership year. If a girl is registered for the current membership year as a Daisy and is registering for the upcoming year as a Brownie, her program age level for the current membership year remains Daisy until the new year begins on October 1st.

GSCNC Note: see clarification below.

3. Orienteering (p. 107, Orienteering)

Competitive Orienteering Courses often require participants to operate independently. While solo competition is not recommended for inexperienced or other program age levels, girls 11 to 17 years of age whose skills match or exceed the demands of the course may participate in such competitions. As with all orienteering sites, there should be a clear area

of safety (Safety Lane), a specific finish time and location and a Search and Rescue procedure designed by the competitions host and the Girl Scout advisor/leader.

4. Rafting (p. 119)

Under Rafting, Site, the line should read "No trip is taken on whitewater more difficult than Class IV, as defined. Previously noted under; Water Activities, Rafting, Site.

5. Program Delivery Site Evacuation Plans (p. 83, Universal Checkpoints)

Evacuation plans should include transportation in situations where girls were dropped off. This is especially important if there are not enough vehicles on site during the event/activity to evacuate all participants.

6. Driver Qualifications (p.73, Standard 25, Private Transportation)

Registered girl members of the current year are not recommended to act as drivers for Girl Scout activities. It may be assumed that Girl Scout activities begin when custody of the participant takes place. To be specific, if travel is part of the activity, travel should be regulated by the Safety-Wise recommendations. Girl Scouts of the USA recommends consulting the state government for the legal definition of "adult" when considering any experienced driver for Girl Scout activities.

7. Permission Slips (p. 87, Standard 10 Parental Permission)

Registered girl members of the current year, regardless of age, are required to have parental/guardian permission slips when required by the council.

GSCNC Note: *Some local jurisdictions within the council have policies or practices allowing 18 year olds to participate in activities without parental permission. GSCNC requires parental permission for all registered girls regardless of age.*

8. Name Tag Safety (p. 51, Tips for Girls Traveling Alone)

When girl members are traveling alone, in public places, it is not recommended that they wear name badges/tags that are visible to a casual passerby.

PROPERTY CONSIDERATIONS Pool Diving Boards and Slides (p. 122, Swimming, Sliding Boards, Diving Areas)

Pool diving boards and slide installation should meet local and state guidelines with regard to bounce, water entry angle, maintenance and water depths. A reputable pool contractor or inspector could be of help in assessing existing diving/sliding areas. The area should be properly marked and separate from other swimming areas. Please see Safety-Wise under Swimming, Diving Areas for specific recommendations.

PRODUCT CONSIDERATION

1. Old Propane Products in Tents and enclosed areas (p. 87, Group Camping, Equipment)

United States Consumer Product Safety Commission advises that all old propane portable heaters, lanterns, and stoves not be used inside enclosed areas due to the high risk of oxygen depletion. A new generation of heaters is currently being manufactured with an oxygen depletion system (ODS). Products with ODS are recommended for use in enclosed areas. For further information, please contact the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission Office of Information and Public Affairs through their website www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PREREL/prhtml02/02179.html

GSCNC Note: *Based on the council's current outdoor training, 200 Cookout & Campout training, "do not use heaters of any kind in tents, even those that advertise for tent use."*

2. 15 Passenger Vans (p. 57, Choosing Transportation)

If your council uses 15 passenger vans, Girl Scouts of the USA recommends consulting your insurance carrier and reviewing state and local laws as some states and counties have issued warnings on these vehicles.

TRAVEL Travel Alerts (p. 59, Trips to Other Countries)

Updates and National and International travel alerts may be found on www.girlscouts.org among other suggestions Girl Scouts of the USA recommends:

1. Monitoring the United States State Department Web site for travel advisories at <http://www.state.gov/travel/> for all international travel.

2. Avoiding the wearing of clothing, pins, logos, buttons, etc. that identify the group as Americans while traveling abroad. (Uniforms can be taken to wear at special Girl Scout/Girl Guide gatherings and ceremonies.)

Clarification of Program Age Level Determination (Program #2)

GSUSA has provided additional clarification to the recent Safety-Wise update item regarding Program Age Level Determination. The update recommendation stated that Daisy, Brownie and Junior level girls remain at their registered program level for the entire registration year (October 1 –September 30)

Safety-Wise provides the Program Standards and safety guidelines for the national organization. Many of the standards, checkpoints and recommendations address program level appropriateness for an activity based on the physical coordination and/or maturity required to safely take part in that activity. Girl Scouts are registered at a specific age/program level for the entire membership year. Bridging ceremonies and other activities designed to move girls from one level to another help define recognitions a girl may work on but *do not change her official registration status*.

Girls who bridge or otherwise “move up” CAN work on activities and requirements for the next program level and have those activities count at the new level, *as long as the activity is appropriate for the level in which she is officially registered for the membership year*.

Below is a *sample* of activities where participation is recommended for specific program levels and should be applied for the entire membership year. Consult *Safety-Wise* when planning any activity to determine age and level appropriateness and readiness.

- Daisy Girl Scouts do not participate in group money-earning activities or handle money, including troop dues.
- Daisy Girl Scout travel activities include local field trips and overnight camping with family members.
- Horseback riding is not recommended for Daisy Girl Scouts
- Archery, Caving and Rappelling are not recommended for Daisy or Brownie Girl Scouts
- Low and high ropes challenge courses are not recommended for Daisy Girl Scouts. Brownie Girl Scouts may participate in low ropes activities but high ropes activities are not recommended for Brownie Girl Scouts.

Concerns or comments regarding this update or *Safety-Wise* issues may be directed to Kathleen Cullinan at kcullinan@girlscouts.org.