



Hosting Girl Scout Meetings in the Home FAQ

Q: Why do I need to fulfill requirements to meet with Girl Scouts in my home?

A: The preferred setting for Girl Scout troop meetings is in safe community settings that are accessible to all members (e.g., schools, community centers, libraries, churches/synagogues, etc.). Public places are typically designed to accommodate people of all abilities, provide ample parking, allow enough space for groups to gather comfortably and safely, and separate volunteers' personal and professional spaces. It's very important a volunteer hosting Girl Scout meetings in their home ensures that their home meets all safety standards and accommodates all members of the troop comfortably and safely.

Q: Where can I find the information and requirements to hold Girl Scout meetings in my home?

A: Visit GSU's COVID-19 Updates webpage and navigate to "Troop Meetings in the Home" to review the Requirements to Host Girl Scout Meetings in the Home. Training can be found by logging into your myGS account and clicking on gsLearn in the left navigation menu where you can search for *Hosting Girl Scout Meetings in the Home*.

Q: Do I have to own my own home?

A: Any registered adult volunteer can apply to host troop meetings in their home, whether it's a single-family house, apartment, condo, mobile home, or any other permanent residence that meets all GSU's safety standards and is covered by homeowners/renter's insurance.

Q: My home meets all requirements except for parking spaces; I don't have a lot of parking space. Can I still host meetings at my home?

A: Absolutely, as long as there is a safe place for girls to enter and exit your residence without risk to their safety. Adult caregivers should always be advised they must walk their girl to the meeting upon arrival and greet them at the door promptly at pick-up time.

Q: Do I have to complete this same process if my troop will only be meeting in my back/front yard?

A: Girl Scouts love the outdoors, so GSU is pleased to extend permission for troops to meet in the backyards or outdoor areas at volunteers' homes during good weather. There are many factors to consider when bringing girls into your home, so it's important you review the information and complete the training, *Hosting Girl Scout Meetings in the Home*, if you think there is any possibility that your troop will meet inside your home.

Q: What if my troop plans to meet on my outdoor deck?

A: It's a little bit outdoors and a little bit meeting in the home. Since your deck, whether enclosed or open, is considered part of your home/dwelling/residence, be sure to review the meetings in the home information on the website.

Q: What needs to happen if we decide to change the meeting space to another home?

A: The registered volunteer of the new location must review the meetings in the home information and complete the training to understand all the requirements for meetings to be held in their home. The troop information should be updated if any changes to the regular meeting place changes.

Q: Can our troop hold meetings in different locations?

A: Yes, as long as each registered volunteer completes the required training, and the troop information is updated. It is recommended that the troop leader update the troop information by logging into myGS and clicking My Troops on the left navigation menu to update the location of the troop meetings; you can also notify GSU Customer Care or contact your Membership Support Specialist for assistance.

Q: Can my troop join another troop for a Girl Scout meeting inside the other troop leader's home?

A: Yes, troops can join together for meetings, as long as girl-to-adult ratios are being met, the girls are receiving age-appropriate program content, and the home is large enough to accommodate the group size comfortably and safely. Be sure to review the meetings in the home information with all leaders prior to joining together.

Q: How often do I need to complete this process?

A: You should retake this training every 3 years, just like you would a volunteer background check or if your troop leadership changes. Troop needs change and your meeting space can, too! Your Membership Support Specialist can guide you through making any updates or changes that happen along the way.