

Rental Group Behavior Management Guidelines

All group leaders should be following positive reinforcement behaviors with youth at GSCWM Camp Properties.

- The rental group must apply all rules consistently and appropriately to the ages of the children and their developmental level and abilities.
- Any discipline used will relate to the youth's actions and be handled without prolonged delay.
- A child may be separated briefly from the group, but, only long enough to gain self-control and must be in view of, supervised and supported by a supervising adult.
- Corporal punishment is prohibited. Withholding or using food, rest or sleep as punishment is prohibited.
- No child can be isolated in an adjacent room, hallway, closet, darkened area, play area of any other area where a child cannot be seen, or supervised.
- Methods of interaction that punish, demean or humiliate a child are prohibited.

Every adult in using GSCWM Properties is responsible for the physical and emotional safety of youth at GSCWM Camp Properties, and we all demonstrate that by agreeing to follow these guidelines at all times.

1. Follow the Safety Activity Checkpoints. Instructions for staying safe while participating in activities are detailed in the Safety Activity Checkpoints, available from your council. Read the checkpoints, follow them, and share them with other volunteers, parents, and girls before engaging in activities with girls.

2. Arrange for proper adult supervision of girls. Your group must have at least two unrelated, adult volunteers present at all times, plus additional adult volunteers as necessary, depending on the size of the group and the ages and abilities of youth. Adult volunteers must be at least 18 years old (or the age of majority defined by the state, if it is older than 18) and must be screened before volunteering.

4. Report abuse. Sexual advances, improper touching, and sexual activity of any kind with girl members are forbidden. Physical, verbal, and emotional abuse of girls is also forbidden. Follow your council's guidelines for reporting concerns about abuse or neglect that may be occurring inside or outside of Girl Scouting.

5. Be prepared for emergencies. Work with girls and other adults to establish and practice procedures for emergencies related to weather, fire, lost girls/adults, and site security. Always keep handy a well-stocked first-aid kit, girl health histories, and contact information for girls' families.

8. Role-model the right behavior. Never use illegal drugs. Don't consume alcohol, smoke, or use foul language in the presence of youth. Do not carry ammunition or firearms in the presence of youth unless given special permission by your council for group marksmanship activities.

9. Create an emotionally safe space. Adults are responsible for making Girl Scouting a place where youth are as safe emotionally as they are physically. Protect the emotional safety of youth by creating a team agreement and coaching children to honor it. Agreements typically encourage behaviors like respecting a diversity of feelings and opinions; resolving conflicts constructively; and avoiding physical and verbal bullying, clique behavior, and discrimination.

10. Ensure that no one is treated differently. Girl Scouts welcomes all members, regardless of race, ethnicity, background, disability, family structure, religious beliefs, and socioeconomic status.

11. Create a Group Agreement. A group agreement is a list of appropriate individual and group behaviors. (i.e. Only one person speaks at a time.) Group agreements are one of the best tools available to leaders for managing discipline issues and conflicts. Youth should discuss their expectations of the group in terms of behavior, shared responsibilities, etc. This is different from "rules" since the group agreement is created by the entire group, not by the leader.