

Adult Participation Guidelines

Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee has developed this set of guidelines as a template for adult participation when working with girls. Use these guidelines at meetings, gatherings or while traveling with girls outside of regular troop meetings.

Adults serve in important roles as volunteers and supporters to troop leaders. Here are the ways that you can contribute to your groups:

- ✓ **Become a volunteer** - Groups must have at least two unrelated, approved adult volunteers present at all times. Additional adult volunteers are dependent upon the size of the group and the ages and abilities of the girls. Adult volunteers must be at least 18 years old and not in high school. One lead volunteer in every group must be female.
- ✓ **Serve as a troop leader or advisor** - Volunteers serving as troop leaders or advisors must be approved by Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee. An approved adult volunteer should have completed the volunteer application, cleared background and reference checks and registered as a member of Girl Scouts.
- ✓ **Become a chaperone** - Chaperones work directly with troop leaders and serve as additional adults in order to meet the girl-to-adult ratio set for outings outside of regular troop meetings. Adults who assist the troop for a period of six hours or more must be a registered member of the Girl Scouts and have cleared a background check.
- ✓ **Serve as a driver** - Drivers, adults who are 21 years old or older, must have a valid driver's license, a good driving record and proof of insurance. Drivers transport unrelated girls to planned Girl Scout field trips and activities (outside of normal meeting times and places) in private vehicles. If a driver spends more than six hours with direct supervision of children, they must be a registered member of Girl Scouts and have cleared a background and reference checks.

Many Girl Scout activities are opportunities for adults and girls to spend time together. These experiences are not exclusive to just females. Fathers, grandfathers, uncles and brothers can add value to the Girl Scout experience and are encouraged to work with girls to help them grow. Creating a safe environment for the girls and adults alike ensures that every opportunity is fun, educational and positive.

Parent and Guardian Responsibilities

Parents and guardians are expected to:

- ✓ Provide permission for their daughter(s) to participate in Girl Scouting and give additional consent for activities that take place outside of regularly scheduled meeting times and places. This includes product sales events, overnight travel and situations involving the use of special equipment or sensitive issues.
- ✓ Make plans for their daughter(s) to get to and from meeting places or other designated sites in a safe and timely manner. Parents/guardians should inform troop leaders and/or advisors if someone other than a parent or guardian will drop off or pick up their daughter(s).
- ✓ Provide their daughter(s) with appropriate clothing and equipment for activities or contact a troop leader or advisor beforehand to find sources for the necessary clothing and equipment.
- ✓ Follow Girl Scout safety guidelines and encourage their daughter(s) to do the same.
- ✓ Assist leaders and advisors in planning and carrying out program activities as safely as possible.
- ✓ Participate in parent/guardian meetings.
- ✓ Understand what behavior is appropriate for their daughter(s) as determined by the Council and troop leader.
- ✓ Assist volunteers if their daughter(s) has special needs or abilities and a parent's help is needed.
- ✓ Never use illegal drugs. Do not consume alcohol, smoke or use foul language in the presence of girls. Do not carry ammunition or firearms unless special permission has been given by Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee for group marksmanship activities.