

Updates and Clarifications as of 03/09 for use with Safety-Wise (2000) publication

The following document contains updates and/or clarifications to the Safety-Wise © 2000 Edition in reverse chronological order. This information provides Girl Scout councils with the most current information on health and safety. Girl Scout councils provide volunteers and staff with the interpretation of standards, activity checkpoints and safety guidelines.

Please see index on the following page for a listing of updates by category including release date and an alphabetical listing by topic.

03/09 Future Safety-Wise Checkpoint Additions

In responding to girls' current interests, GSUSA anticipates that guidelines for several activities will be added in future safety and risk management publications. Below is a list of potential topics created in March 2008. We will continue to review potential additions to best meet the needs of our membership.

Please note: Zip Lines, Tree Climbing, and Canopy Cruising guidelines are the same as the Challenge Courses, Climbing, and Rappelling checkpoints on pp. 99-101 of Safety-Wise.

Land Sports, p. 94

- Fencing
- Geocaching
- Segway (transportation using EPAMDS—electric personal assistive mobility devices)
- Skateboarding
- Sail Skateboarding, Skate Sailing (Wind Skating or Street Surfing) and Kite Skateboarding

Water Activities, p. 112

- Ice Fishing
 - Scuba Diving
 - Snorkeling
 - Surfing
-

By Category

#Activity Checkpoints	
2004 02 Canoeing and Kayaking.....	12
2004 02 Orienteering.....	12
2004 02 Rafting.....	12
2008 10 Camping with Daisies.....	3
2008 10 Swimming.....	5
2009 03 Activity Checkpoints.....	1
#Cookies.....	<i>See #Product Sale</i>
#First Aid	
2004 02 Application of Lotion.....	11
2004 02 CPR Certification.....	11
2004 02 Dentists as First Aiders.....	11
2004 02 Event First Aiders.....	11
2004 02 Latex Gloves.....	11
2008 10 First Aid Training.....	4
#Money-Earning	
2004 01 Commercial Product.....	14
2004 01 Group Sponsorship.....	14
2008 07 Product Sale.....	6
#Product Sale.....	6
2008 07 Activities Involving Money #28.....	6
2008 07 Clothing.....	9
2008 07 Council Product Sale Awards.....	8
2008 07 Council Sale Activity #30.....	7
2008 07 Online Guidance.....	8
2008 07 Order Taking and Selling.....	9
2008 07 Planning and Supervision.....	9
2008 07 Product Sale Checkpoints.....	8
2008 07 Specifically for Daisies.....	10
#Program	
2004 02 Diving Boards and Slides.....	13
2004 02 Driver Qualifications.....	12
2004 02 Fifteen Passenger Vans.....	13
2004 02 Level Determination.....	12
2004 02 Name Tag Safety.....	12
2004 02 Permission Slips.....	12
2004 02 Propane Products.....	13
2004 02 Site Evacuation.....	12
2008 10 Ratios with Grade Level.....	3
#Travel	
2004 02 Travel Updates.....	13
2008 10 Global Travel Kit.....	5
2008 10 Intent to Travel.....	5
2008 10 Letter of Introduction.....	5
2008 10 Visiting World Centers.....	5

By Topic

15 Passenger Vans.....	13
Application of Lotion.....	11
Camping with Daisies.....	3
Canoeing.....	12
Clothing for Product Sale.....	9
Commercial Product.....	14
Council Product Sale Activity #30.....	7
Council Product Sale Awards.....	8
CPR Certification 02/04.....	11
Daisies Cookies.....	10
Daisies Product Sale.....	10
Dentists as First Aiders.....	11
Diving Boards Pools.....	13
Driver Qualifications.....	12
Event First Aiders.....	11
Fifteen (15) Passenger Vans.....	13
First Aid Training Courses 2008.....	4
Future Activity Checkpoints.....	1
Global Travel Kit.....	5
Group Sponsorship.....	14
Intent to Travel.....	5
Kayaking.....	12
Latex Gloves.....	11
Letter of Introduction.....	5
Level Determination.....	12
Name Tag Safety.....	12
Online Guidance.....	8
Order Taking and Selling.....	9
Orienteering.....	12
Permission Slips.....	12
Planning and Supervision Product Sale.....	9
Product Sale Awards.....	8
Product Sale Checkpoints.....	8
Propane Products.....	13
Rafting.....	12
Ratios with Grade Level.....	3
Site Evacuation.....	12
Slides Pools.....	13
Standard 28.....	6
Standard 29.....	14
Standard 30.....	7
Standard 31.....	8
Swimming in Yard, Hotel, Ship Pools.....	5
Travel Updates.....	13
Visiting World Centers.....	5

10/08 (revised 02/09) Grade level Ratios with current Safety-Wise (2000) Edition

The New Girl Scout Leadership Experience provides direction for Girl Scout program adapted to meet the developmental, educational, emotional, and social needs and interests of girls at the six Girl Scout grade levels.

National Standard Adult-to-Girl Ratios – Girl Scout Grade Levels						
Girl Scout Grade Level	Grade	Troop/Group Size: Number Of Girls	General Meetings Two Non-Related Adults (At Least One Of Whom Is Female) For Each Number (Below) Of Girls	Plus One Adult For Each Additional Number (Below) Of Girls	Events, Trips, And Camping: Two Non-Related Adults (At Least One Of Whom Is Female) For Each Number (Below) Of Girls	Plus One Adult For Each Additional Number (Below) Of Girls
Girl Scout Daisy	K–grade 1	5–15	12	6	6	4
Girl Scout Brownie	Grades 2–3	5–25	20	8	12	6
Girl Scout Junior	Grades 4–5	5–30	25	10	16	8
Girl Scout Cadette	Grades 6–8	5–30	25	12	20	10
Girl Scout Senior	Grades 9–10	5–30	30	15	24	12
Girl Scout Ambassador	Grades 11–12	5–30	30	15	24	12

Girls with disabilities that receive special education services may be enrolled as a Girl Scout until the age of 21. Girls should be placed with peers of their same chronological age and wear the uniform of that grade level.

Girl Scout grade level is determined by the current membership year, beginning October 1st.

10/08 Camping (Safety-Wise, p. 84)

Under the leadership of an adult, a Girl Scout Daisy troop may participate in an occasional overnight camping experience.

Girl Scout Daisies who have completed kindergarten may independently participate in day camp and resident camp experiences lasting up to three nights.

Girl Scout Daisies who have completed first grade may independently participate in resident camp experiences lasting four or more nights.

10/08

First-Aid Training

First-aid offerings listed in the chart on p. 37 of Safety-Wise are provided online by the sponsoring organization and include a face-to-face participant skills assessment. The course may be accepted as meeting the recommendation.

National first-aid programs may be submitted for review throughout the year. Girl Scouts of the USA routinely reviews such programs so as to expand the courses available to our membership. Councils may review local offerings, compare the content to the national recommendations, and make decisions concerning their area's resources.

For more information regarding what level of training is needed for different activities, and when it is needed, please consult Safety-Wise (pg 36).

National First-Aid Programs

Organization	Courses for First-Aider, Level 1	Courses for First-Aider, Level 2
American Red Cross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community First Aid and Safety including CPR or • Standard First Aid including CPR Child Care (for Girl Scout Daisy leaders) including CPR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport Safety Training or • Standard First Aid including CPR, plus First Aid, When Help Is Delayed, or • First Aid Responding to Emergencies or • Emergency Response*
American Safety and Health Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic First Aid plus CPR for School and Community or the Workplace or • Basic Wilderness First Aid plus CPR for the School and Community or Workplace 	CPR Training and one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilderness First Aid • Wilderness First Responder • Wilderness EMT Upgrade*
Emergency First Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Care (CPR) plus Secondary Care (First Aid) 	
Medic First Aid International, Inc. (Formally EMP America)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Plus CPR, AED, and First Aid for Adults • Basic CPR and First Aid for Adults • Pediatric Plus CPR, AED, and First Aid for Children, Infants, and Adults • Pediatric CPR and First Aid for Children • Care Plus CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for Adults, Children, and Infants • Emergency Care First Aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Life Support for Professionals (BLSPRO)
National Safety Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard First, CPR and AED or • Pediatric First Aid, CPR and AED 	
Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunity (SOLO)		Any standard CPR with one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilderness First Aid (WFA) • Wilderness First Responder (WFR) • Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician (WEMT)
American Heart Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heartsaver First Aid and CPR 	For CPR Training
American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPR and First Aid Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilderness First Responder
EMS Safety Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPR and First Aid Training or • Pediatric First Aid and CPR 	

*These courses far exceed the requirements for Girl Scout first-aiders but may be used.

10/08

Swimming in Backyard, Hotel, and Cruise Ship Pools

There is one lifeguard for 1 to 10 swimmers. The lifeguard is at least 16 years old and has American Red Cross Lifeguard Training certification or the equivalent. An adult trained in water rescue skills is also present. American Red Cross Basic Water Rescue is recommended for this adult and for watchers.

10/08

Trips, Travel, and Transportation with Girl Scouts

Global Travel Toolkit

Girl Scout troops/groups planning an international trip are strongly encouraged to use the Global Travel Toolkit. The toolkit is a nuts and bolts resource for international travel, including planning advice, procedures for international travel, budgeting suggestions, cultural recommendations, and resources on Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting around the world.

Download your Global Travel Toolkit at www.girlscouts.org The Global Travel Toolkit will be available in early 2009* In the meantime, if you seek resources or travel advice, please contact globalgirlscouting@girlscouts.org

Letter of Introduction

The WAGGGS Card of Introduction (blue card) is no longer required for international travel. However, if your troop/group is interested in connecting with Girl Guides or Girl Scouts abroad, a letter of introduction can be sent on your behalf. Please submit an Intent to Travel form indicating that you would like a letter of introduction.

Visiting World Centers

Contact the world centers directly to make reservations:

Our Cabaña, México: www.ourcabana.org/

Pax Lodge, England: paxlodge.org/

Our Chalet, Switzerland: www.ourchalet.ch/en/home

Sangam, India: sangam.wagggsworld.org/

Intent to Travel

All troop/groups traveling internationally must notify their council and submit an Intent to Travel form to GSUSA three to six months before departure: www.girlscouts.org/program/gscentral/forms/.

07/08

Girl Scout PROGRAM STANDARDS

Related to Girl Scout Product Sale Activities

The following changes in Safety-Wise Standards 28, 30, and 31 were adopted by the GSUSA Board of Directors 06/15/08.

Standard 28 (Revised) *Activities Involving Money*

Girl Scout Groups are financed by dues, money earning-activities, and a share of money earned through council-sponsored product sale activities. Girl Scout Daisies may be involved in council-sponsored product sale activities only, and not collect money in any other way except through group dues or parental contributions. (Amended by GSUSA Board 6/15/2008)

“Group money earning” refers to activities following a planned budget and carried out by girls and adults, in partnership, to earn money for the group treasury. “Council sponsored product sales” are council-wide sales of authorized products, such as Girl Scout Cookies, calendars, magazines or nuts and candy in which membership pathways participate. The funds are for Girl Scout activities and are not to be retained by individuals as their properties. Girls can, however, be awarded sales incentives and/or credits to apply to Girl Scout product and/or activities.

Girl’s participation in group money-earning projects or council-sponsored product sale activities is based upon the following:

- Voluntary participation
- Written permission of a parent or guardian
- Council guidelines
- An understanding of, and ability to interpret to others, why the money is needed
- Correct business procedures
- Observance of local ordinances related to involvement of children in money earning activities, as well as meeting health and safety laws
- Adherence to guidelines for personal protection
- Planned arrangements for safeguarding the money

Girl Scouts, in their role as Girl Scouts, may not raise or solicit money for other organizations. However, girls may contribute a portion of their group treasury to organizations or projects they consider worthwhile if they have funds that are not needed for activities during the year (for example, local or international community service organizations, or environmental projects.)

Encourage girls to designate a portion of their group treasury for the annual membership dues of the members. This is a sound and efficient practice that enables girls to meet membership dues and lessens the potential burden to individual members.

See activity Checkpoints for Girl Scout Cookie/Council Sponsored Product Sales, as well as Safety-Wise Standards 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33. (Standards 29, 32, 33, 34 and 35 have no revisions)

Standard 30 (Revised) - Council-Sponsored Girl Scout Product Sale Activities

Girls can participate in no more than two council-sponsored product sale activities each year and only one of these may be a cookie sale. The percentage of money to be allocated to participating groups is determined by the council and explained to girls and adults as part of the product sale activity orientation. Girl Scout Daisies may participate in council-sponsored product sales in girl/adult partnership as a Girl Scout Leadership Experience. (Amended by GSUSA Board 6/15/2008)

The selling of Girl Scout Cookies or other council-sponsored products is an integral part of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience focusing on financial literacy. Girls learn to set goals, budget, plan, market to others, work as a team, and many other skills necessary to a successful sale activity. Adults serve in a supporting role but should never assume sole responsibility for sales. Refer to the activity checkpoints for "Cookie/Council-Sponsored Product Sale Activities".

All girl members may participate in council-sponsored product sales activities under volunteer supervision. The council provides training on the procedures to follow during the sale to all participants through a cascading staff and volunteer effort.

The council sets the guidelines and procedures for conducting the sale and determines how the proceeds and recognition system will be managed. The council retains some of the proceeds resulting from product sales to support program activities and participation of all registered Girl Scouts. Adult volunteers, girls, and their families should understand how cookie proceeds are used, so that they can explain this to the public.

The income from product sales does not become the property of individual girl members. Individual girl members may participate in council product sales if supervised by a council trained adult. Girls are eligible for incentives and "cookie credits" but "money earned" that normally would go to a group is administered by the council.

Parents and guardians grant permission for girls to participate and are informed about the girls' whereabouts when they are engaged in product sale activities.

Girl should be identifiable as Girl Scouts by wearing a Membership Pin, official uniform, uniform component, or Girl Scout clothing.

Adults must monitor, supervise, and guide the sale activities of all age levels. Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies and Juniors must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors who participate in door-to-door sales must be supervised by an adult. Girls always use the buddy system.

Money due for sold products should be collected when the products are delivered to the customer or as directed by the Girl Scout council.

Personal customer information should remain private. Customer credit-card information should not be collected by girls. No credit-card information should be asked for on any form collected by girls.

Online Guidance

Girls or their families may not engage in selling Girl Scout Cookies or other products approved for council-sponsored product sales on the Internet. Girls can use e-mail as a marketing tool to let family, friends and former customers know about the sale.

- Product related e-mail is not intended to be SPAM (unwanted e-mail). Girls or their parents should not broadcast e-mails to parental membership lists or place of employment e-mail list-serves.
- Girls or their parents cannot set up online ordering or payment on private Web pages.
- Lists of customers and their e-mails should be treated with respect and girls should be instructed on privacy issues

Girl Scout councils do not sell cookies, girls sell cookies. Any referrals via www.girlscoutcookies.org to councils should be fulfilled by and credited to girl sales. It is up to a Girl Scout council to have a system in place which will allow for girl involvement.

Standard 31 (minimal changes) - Council-Sponsored Product Sale Awards

Groups and individuals may choose to earn council product sale awards. Awards are program-related and of a type that will provide opportunities for girls to participate in Girl Scout activities.

Girls may earn official Girl Scout age-appropriate awards related to product sale activities as a part of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. In addition, each council may choose to provide items such as participation patches, sales awards, and council credit for camperships, event fees, day camp fees, grants for destinations (girl travel) and action/service projects, and materials and supplies for program activities to participants.

The council plan for recognition applies equally to all girls participating in the product sale activity.

Where at all possible, councils should involve girls in the selection of awards and administration of money given to girls from product sales (such as an application process for grants for leadership projects or travelships for destinations).

(Standards 29, 32, 33, 34 and 35 remain the same.)

Girl Scout Cookie/Council-Sponsored Product Sale Activity Checkpoints

When Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors participate in Girl Scout Cookie or other product activities, review and follow the following activity checkpoints.

Individually registered Girl Scouts cannot participate in a Girl Scout product activity unless supervised by a trained adult appointed by the council or service unit.

Planning and Supervision

- Local ordinances related to involvement of children in money-earning projects are observed.
- Girls are involved in planning and setting goals for the product sale activity.
- Each girl's participation is voluntary.
- Written permission is obtained from a girl's parent or guardian before the girl participates in a council product sale. A parent, guardian, or other adult must know each girl's whereabouts when she is engaged in product sales.
- Girls may use telephones and e-mail to alert friends and relatives to product sales. Girls may not sell Girl Scout product by posting information and making transactions on the Internet.
- Guidelines for corporate sales (quantity sales to businesses) by girls 11-17 should be coordinated through the Girl Scout council.
- Any participation in "gifting" sales of product proposed by girls to benefit a community or organization should be overseen by the Girl Scout council.
- Any gifts in quantity to military overseas should be coordinated through military or related personnel at the place of origin and the place of receipt. Large shipments should have a council agreement with the third party to assure that the cookies arrive where intended. Gifts should not be sent to U.S. bases or bases overseas where there are Girl Scouts involved in product activity sales. Girl Scouts should observe council jurisdiction when selling or marketing product for a gifting program.
- Girls writing notes for recipients of product gifts should sign with their first name only, troop/group number and council name. Personal e-mails or addresses of girls should never be used.
- Adults should exercise caution in holding large quantities of money at the point of sale. If need be, make arrangements for additional adults to bank money frequently, particularly from high traffic booth sales.

Clothing

- Girls wear a Girl Scout Membership Pin, official uniform, uniform component, or informal Girl Scout clothing to identify themselves as Girl Scouts.
- Girls dress and prepare appropriately for the weather at all times.

Order Taking and Selling

- The Girl Scout Cookie and other product sale activities are girl driven. Parents and guardians should receive information as to their role in helping girls in the sale from the adult in charge and the council. Adults may assist, but cannot sell Girl Scout products. (The role of the Girl Scout Daisy adult is fully explained in online materials on the GSUSA website, www.girlscouts.org, under Girl Scout Central: Cookies.)
- Adults must provide supervision and guidance for all age levels. Adults must accompany Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies and Juniors when they are selling, order taking or delivering cookies.
- If product sale is allowed at an adult's workplace, the girl should be personally involved in the customer interface and/or delivery in some way.
- Girl Scouts should observe council jurisdiction when selling or marketing product or engaged in collecting for a gifting program. Girl Scouts should observe council jurisdictions when selling cookies in parent/guardians place of work, unless arrangements are made to accommodate all Girl Scout families connected to that workplace.
- Girls and adults should be familiar with the areas and neighborhoods in which they will sell.
- Girl Scout Cadettes through Ambassadors must sell in the buddy system and have adult oversight.
- Girls participate in door-to-door sales only during daylight hours, unless accompanied by an adult.
- When Girl Scouts operate a booth in a store, mall, or other public place, adults must be present at all times. However, at no time should adults be the only individuals at the booth.

- Girls learn and practice personal protection skills as outlined in GSUSA- and vendor provided activity materials. For example:
 - Use safe pedestrian practices, especially when crossing at busy intersections, crossing an alley, or walking in a parking lot.
 - Never enter someone's home (house or apartment) when selling or delivering cookies.
 - Do not carry large amounts of money. Provision for safeguarding the money is made in advance. Adult support ensures that girls do not carry large sums of money.
 - Never approach a vehicle to sell to someone.
 - Avoid accepting bills larger than \$20; ask customers to change money at a business or bank if they have larger denominations.
- A designated adult's telephone number and/or group e-mail overseen by an adult is given for reorders or complaints; a girl does not give out her telephone number or personal email.
- When planning sales booths, contact local authorities for permission and for additional safety and security suggestions and assistance. Councils should have a plan in place for approving all booth locations and assure that they are scheduled in a fair and equitable manner.
- Girl Scout Cookies® and Girl Scouts® are trademarked by Girl Scouts of the USA and cannot be used to endorse products or services. Any questions regarding the use of Girl Scout Cookies or the name Girl Scouts must be addressed to the Girl Scout council or trademarks@girlscouts.org.

In Addition, Specifically for Girl Scout Daisies

- Materials provided by GSUSA for Daisies focus on engaging girls in selling to friends (including neighbors) and family. This approach is based upon:
 - The attention span and physical abilities of the girls;
 - The need for one-on-one supervision when handling money (the adult should hold all money);
 - The involvement of parents or trusted adults in goal setting, ensuring that goals are appropriate for the group or individuals; and
 - The importance of providing girls with a foundation in the basics of product related activities.
- Adults supervising girls should understand the product sale activity objectives and how to support the girl in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. It is important that girls achieve success in selling their product with adult partnership, focusing on the Girl Scout processes of Girl Led, Learning by Doing, and Cooperative Learning.

02/04

First Aid

Application of Lotion

Several councils asked how a lotion form 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.

CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation) Certification for First-Aider

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.

Dentists as First-Aiders

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.

Event First-Aiders

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-aiders traveling with them during the 20-minute train rides so as to insure first aid is available during the entire experience.

Latex Gloves Substitutes

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.

02/04 Program

Canoeing and Kayaking National Organization

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

Program Age-Level Determination

Program Age-Level 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 1.

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.

Rafting

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.

Program Delivery Site Evacuation Plans

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.

Driver Qualifications

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.

Permission Slips

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

Name-Tag Safety

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

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

Old Propane Products in Tents and Enclosed Areas

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 Web site www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PREREL/prhtml02/02179.html

15 Passenger Vans

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

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

- Monitor the United States State Department Web site for travel advisories at www.state.gov/travel/ for all international travel.
- Avoid 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.)

Please note that the activity check points on pages 75 to 90 of Safety and Risk Management in Girl Scouts are covered by Safety-Wise ©.

01/04

Group Money-Earning Activities

Commercial Products

Many callers have asked GSUSA for a definition of "commercial product" so that they can help interpret Program Standard 29 to their membership. Here is the definition that has been provided by GSUSA to those requests: Anything sold at retail is a commercial product. Girls may not sell commercial products as money-earning activities. The public sees the sale of a commercial product as an endorsement of that product by the seller. Since 1939, the National Board of Directors has had a policy restricting endorsement of commercial products by Girl Scouts. The current policy is found in the current Blue Book of Basic Documents.

Girl Scout troops/groups should be counseled to be realistic about the scale of their projects and trips and choose ones that can be funded by their participation in council-sponsored product sales and other money-earning activities permitted by council policies and practices. Girl Scout troops/groups requesting approval from their council for money-earning projects must follow council procedures, but cannot be given permission to sell items they may create with the Girl Scout service mark or other Girl Scout marks without prior approval from GSUSA. Girl Scout councils are not authorized to grant this approval.

Please note that any council policy statements about girls engaged in earning money should use the terminology money-earning activities. See Program Standard 29 (pages 74-75). The term fund-raising should only be used to refer to the responsibility of adults to support the Girl Scout council.

Group Sponsorship

The statement on page 29 that "Sponsorship in the form of a cash gift of \$250 or more is sent to the council..." has created confusion. It was intended to inform Girl Scout adults that a troop/group leader cannot validate any gift as a charitable deduction. Each Girl Scout council must actively protect its statutory (Internal Revenue Service) eligibility to receive charitable donations, and only councils can provide appropriate acknowledgement to donors as required by the IRS.

Girl Scout leaders should be reminded that any solicitation of businesses, organizations, or individuals must be part of a council's overall fund development plan. The council has to meet its legal obligations to the state in soliciting for donations, to other funders providing support, and under federal statutes for non-profit organizations. By soliciting sponsorships without council approval, Girl Scout groups and individuals place their council in jeopardy by circumventing the council's accountability and authority. The council is encouraged to establish other guidelines or policies on sponsorship to guide leaders through the process.

To clarify the intent of this section, future printings of it will be changed to say:

"Sponsors help the Girl Scout council ensure that all girls in the community have an opportunity to participate in Girl Scouting. Consult your council for information on working with a sponsor. Council staff can give you guidance on the availability of sponsors, recruiting responsibility, and any council policies or practices that must be followed. Community organizations, businesses, or individuals can be sponsors and may provide group meeting places, volunteer time, activity materials, equipment, or financial support for Girl Scout groups.

If your group has a sponsor, your sponsor's contribution can be recognized by sending thank-you cards composed by the girls, inviting the sponsor to a meeting or court of awards, or working together on a service project."

As we look forward to implementing a campaign to include all girls in Girl Scouting, it will be important for councils to have policies and procedures that secure sponsorship monies for groups in need of external financing. Reviewing the publication "Developing Community Sponsorship in Girl Scouting. A Council Guide", CSP 40-113-100 (UPC 40645), will be helpful during this process.

01/04 Typographical Errors

The following corrections, shown in bold, will be made in future printings of Safety-Wise.

Page 98, under "Caving~" column three:

Each person has: a safety helmet that fits properly, with a strong chin strap. For horizontal caves, bump helmets may be used. For vertical caves...

Page 68, column one, last paragraph:

A leader should use parent permission forms provided by the council or get her council's input in developing permission forms for special activities.
