

Safety Tips of the Month

for Girl Scout Leaders, Parents/Guardians, Volunteers, and Girls

Tornadoes – In light of recent events involving bad weather conditions, Girl Scouts – Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana feel it is important to address tornadoes and tornado safety. A **tornado watch** means conditions are favorable for a tornado to occur versus a **tornado warning** which means a tornado has been spotted. According to *Safety-Wise*, page 34, darkened skies, thick storm clouds, and strong winds, combined with lightning and periods of rain and hail, often precede a tornadoes arrival. If a tornado warning is issued, head for a protected area immediately. Keep the following in mind:

- Safe areas include storm shelters, basements, caves, tunnels, underground parking facilities, interior corridors or hallways, or reinforced concrete buildings.
- Areas to avoid include cars, house trailers, parked vehicles, tents, structures with poorly supported roofs, gymnasiums, auditoriums, or indoor areas near windows.
- If outside, move away at right angles to the tornado's path. If there is not time to escape, lie flat in a ditch, ravine, culvert, or under a bridge and protect your head.

Follow these procedures should a tornado warning be issued or tornadic conditions occur:

- Take immediate cover at the closest shelter. The room with the fewest windows is best.
- Take a head count.
- Everyone should sit on the floor against an inside wall with knees drawn up, head lowered, face buried in knees, and head protected with arms. **Do not lie down.**
- If a building is not available, lie down below ground level and protect head.
- Everyone should remain in their position until an "all clear" signal is given.
- Should a major emergency occur, refer to your *Panorama: A Guide to Council Services*, Troop/Group Management and Safety Module, pages 14-15.
 1. Give aid to injured and simultaneously have another adult notify doctor, police, and/or fire department.
 2. Call one of the council managers at 847-840-8200 or 847-909-6625 with pertinent information.
 3. **Do not talk to the media.** The council spokesperson will make official statements and call parents/guardians.
 4. Remain courteous and cooperative with press and public informing them that "all questions will be answered by the official council spokesperson."

Knowing some basic facts about tornadoes can help prepare you for an outdoor outing during the spring and summer months:

- Clues a tornado is coming include dark, often greenish sky; wall clouds; large hail; a loud roar that sounds like a freight train.
- Summer is peak tornado time in the northern states.
- Tornadoes are most likely to occur between 3:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
- The average tornado moves from southwest to northeast.

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Adult Training: Training requirements for Girl Scout volunteers will not change during the summer months as we become Girl Scouts – Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana. Blended learning options will be available to all busy volunteers: classroom, self-study guide, or online training.

During the summer months, many Girl Scout troops enjoy outdoor excursions and overnights to facilities both within and outside of council-owned properties. The following completed training will determine the type of outing your troop can choose. In order to travel beyond your meeting place, an adult trained in the appropriate level based on your trip **must be in attendance** during your Girl Scout troop’s adventure.

- ☑ Completion of *Girl Scouts on the Move: Module 1: Field Trip Adventures* allows your Girl Scout troop to venture from the established meeting place.
- ☑ Completion of *Girl Scouts on the Move: Module 2: Indoor Overnight Adventures* allows your Girl Scout troop to stay in buildings, lodges, or hotels.
- ☑ Completion of *Girl Scouts on the Move: Camp Craft* allows your Girl Scout troop to camp in a tent or Adirondack.

Refer to *Panorama: A Guide to Council Services*, Program Center Opportunities and Troop/Group Camping Module, page 8 for course descriptions. Use the chart below to assist planning your Girl Scout troop’s next adventure.

Site Name	Site Description	Training Required
<i>Adahi Program Center</i> Lodge	Building	Module 1 and 2
<i>Happy Hollow Program Center</i> Alpine View Art Barn Fox’s Den Huckleberry Hideout Keechee Leffer House Point of View Prairie Place Ramblin’ Road Squirrel Square Sunburst Sylvia’s Place	Platform Tent Building Building Platform Tent Platform Tent Building Platform Tent Set-Up Tent area Set-Up Tent area Platform Tent Platform Tent Platform Tent	Module 1, 2, and Camp Craft Module 1 and 2 Module 1 and 2 Module 1, 2, and Camp Craft Module 1, 2, and Camp Craft Module 1 and 2 Module 1, 2, and Camp Craft Module 1, 2, and Camp Craft Module 1, 2, and Camp Craft Module 1, 2, and Camp Craft Module 1, 2, and Camp Craft Module 1, 2, and Camp Craft
<i>Morrison Program Center</i> Blackhawk Picnic Area Dormitory Training Room Sequoia Picnic Area Trail’s End Wau-No-Chi-Co	Outdoor Building Building Outdoor Platform Tent Building	Module 1 Module 1 and 2 Module 1 and 2 Module 1 Module 1, 2, and Camp Craft Module 1 and 2
<i>Wild Rose Program Center</i> Aspen Grove Picnic Area Blueberry Lodge Hawthorn Trail Pineview Lodge Ridgetop Lodge Strawberry Lodge Sugarbush Tall Oaks	Outdoor Building Set-Up Tent area Building Building Building Cabin Adirondack	Module 1 Module 1 and 2 Module 1, 2, and Camp Craft Module 1 and 2 Module 1 and 2 Module 1 and 2 Module 1, 2, and Camp Craft Module 1, 2, and Camp Craft