



## Meeting in Homes FAQs

Q: Where can I apply for permission to hold Girl Scout meetings in my home?

A: Great question! Visit GSSNE's Covid-19 page by clicking [HERE](https://www.gssne.org/en/our-council/covid-19-information.html) (<https://www.gssne.org/en/our-council/covid-19-information.html>) or click on the pink Covid banner at the top of our home page. Look for the 7/31/20, read the update, and click the green link to request permission.

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

A: Girl Scout troop meetings should take place in safe, community settings that are accessible to all members e.g. schools, community centers, libraries, churches/synagogues, etc. Public spaces are typically designed to accommodate people of all abilities, have ample parking, enough space for groups to gather comfortably and safely, and they don't encroach on a volunteer's personal space. It's very important a volunteer hosting Girl Scout meetings in her/his home ensures their home meets all safety standards and accommodates all members of the troop comfortably and safely.

Q: Do I have to own my own home?

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

Q: What if the troop wants to use my home but I'm not a registered volunteer?

A: Not a problem! We'll be happy to help you complete your membership. Please contact us at 401.331.4500 or [CustomerCare@gssne.org](mailto:CustomerCare@gssne.org) and a member of our team will be glad to help you. Please have a valid credit card ready. If you'd prefer to take care of it yourself, simply visit our JOIN NOW page at [www.gssne.org](http://www.gssne.org) and follow the prompts. Once your background screening is complete, you'll be an official troop support volunteer.

Q: Can I host a meeting if I live in an apartment complex?

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

Q: My home meets all standards except for parking spaces; I don't have a lot of parking spots. Can I still host?

A: You can! 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: Must I complete a permission request if my troop will only be meeting in my back/front yard?

A: Girl Scouts love the outdoors so GSSNE was pleased to extend permission for troops to meet in the backyards/outdoors at volunteer homes starting in (MONTH). The Meeting at Homes permission allows troops to request permission to meet inside homes so they have a regular meeting space once the weather turns colder or inclement. There are many factors to consider when bringing girls into your home so it's important you complete the permission request if you think there's any possibility you'll want your troop to meet inside your home.

Q: Should I complete a permission request if my troop plans to meet on my outdoor deck?

A: This is a great question! It's a little bit outdoors and a little bit Meeting at Home. Since your deck, whether enclosed or open, is considered part of your home/dwelling/residence, you must submit a request for permission to meet in the home.

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

A: The owner/renter of the next location must complete a permission request to hold meeting in their home. This must be done for any home where you desire to hold your troop meeting.

Q: Can multiple registered volunteers apply for permission to meet in homes so our troop can hold meetings in different (approved) locations?

A: Yes, as long as each registered volunteer submits a request and receives an approval from GSSNE, girls can meet in the home of an approved troop volunteer. The troop leader MUST notify the SUM where each troop meeting will be taking place, in advance of the meeting.

Q: Can my troop join another troop for a Girl Scout meeting if they received permission to meet at home but we don't have permission?

A: As long as the girl-to-adult ratio is being met, the girls are receiving age-appropriate program content, and the home is large enough to accommodate the group size comfortably and safely, troops can join together for meetings. Each troop must notify their SUM of the arrangement in advance of the meeting.