



Overnight Guidelines for all Male Volunteers

All adult volunteers, male or female must be current members of GSUSA to spend the night on any type of overnight trip and/or activity.

On trips where male volunteers are part of the group, it is not appropriate for them to sleep in the same space as girl members. Always support and maintain an all-girl atmosphere for sleeping quarters. Men may participate only when separate sleeping quarters and bathrooms are available for their use. Men should not be in a situation where they are to walk through girls' sleeping quarters to access restrooms and/or sleeping area.

In some circumstances, such as a museum or mall overnight with hundreds of girls, this type of accommodation may not be possible. If this is the case, men do not supervise girls in the sleeping area of the event and the adult volunteer-to-girl ratio is adjusted accordingly.

An exception is made for family members during events such as parent-daughter or family overnights where one family may sleep together in an area specifically designated to accommodate families.

Also please make note of the following:

- Each participant has her own bed.
- Parent/guardian permission must be obtained if girls are to share a bed.
- Girls and adults do not share a bed; however, some councils make exceptions for mothers and daughters.
- It is not mandatory that an adult sleep in the sleeping area (tent, cabin, or designated area) with the girls, but if an adult female does share the sleeping area, there should always be **two unrelated adult females** present.

If a male volunteer is the troops designated Troop Camper, they are to be present when all outdoor activities are taking place: cooking, campfire, hikes etc. They will need to ensure proper instruction is given to the other adults for the time they are apart.

If male volunteers need to share a bathroom, they must place a designated sign or a red bandana on the door handle of the restroom to identify they are using the facility. If possible, when male volunteers are showering there should also be a female adult volunteer standing outside to ensure girls do not accidentally go in. There should also be designated shower time for male only showers, preferably when there will be the least amount of traffic in the area of the bathroom. As a courtesy, male volunteers should also announce their presence **before** entering the restroom to allow women and girls an opportunity to exit.

All male volunteers must respect the privacy of the girls/women and may not be in the unit during showers or sleeping time. They must also notify another adult volunteer before they enter in the area in the morning to cook breakfast (if applicable).

For overnight accommodations on Council Properties please review the Property Guide for specific arrangements at each location.