

Overnight Guidelines for Male Volunteers

All adult volunteers, male or female must be current members of GSUSA, have a favorable Criminal Background Check and have completed the SAM training 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/female 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. If night programming is taking place in the unit/sleeping area, once it has finished, all men must leave the area directly following the closing to allow girls time to prepare for lights out.

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.

Please note: Exceptions to this guideline are made for family members during events such as parent/Girl Scout or family overnights where one family may sleep together in an area specifically designated to accommodate families or in tents where each parent/Girl Scout can sleep together.

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 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 the sleeping area at any time i.e.: to cook breakfast, etc. (if applicable).

Prior to booking any location for overnight camping, verify with the location the designated sleeping space/bathrooms available for male participants. For overnight accommodations on Council Properties please review the Property Guide for specific arrangements at each location.

Also please make note of the following, for any overnights:

- Always make sure all adults are aware of the guidelines before finalizing the event.
- Each participant has their own bed.
- Parent/guardian permission must be obtained if girls are to share a bed.
- Girls and adults do not share a bed; however there may be exceptions for mothers and their Girl Scouts.
- 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.