

Troop Safety

The current world climate has given us pause to reflect and consider our daily routines. In the interest of girl safety, please be aware of your surroundings, and follow these basic safety practices.

- ❖ Review Safety Wise before taking any trip or trying a new activity.
- ❖ **Always file a copy of your *permission slip** with your Service Unit, including where and when you are traveling, whenever you are meeting outside of your normal meeting place or time. **Also file an *Application for Troop/Group Trips (for Overnights, Out of State Day Trips, or as Required by Safety Wise)**, with Council, when appropriate. In both cases ***include this additional information:**
 - 1) Complete name, address and landline phone number of the place you are visiting.
 - 2) The names, addresses and phone numbers of all girls & adults in your party.
 - 3) The names of all drivers.
 - 4) Landline phone number(s) (you may include *additional* cell phone numbers) of your emergency contact.
 - 5) Be sure to keep parents informed of your plans and allow plenty of travel time.
- ❖ **When you arrive on site**, make the girls and adults in your party aware of all safety exits.
- ❖ **Decide on a 'Plan A' meeting place**, outside of and away from, the building/location. Explain that this meeting place should be used in the event that you had to vacate. For example, if there were a fire.
- ❖ **Make a 'Plan B', or alternative outside meeting place**. The 'Plan B' and 'Plan A' locations should not be near one another. 'Plan B' should only be used if the 'Plan A' location becomes unsafe. For example, the fire is between you and the 'Plan A' location. **You will need to use your best judgment, based on the age of your girls, whether discussing a 'Plan B' location will be too confusing.*
- ❖ **Assign specific adults to watch over specific girls**. This is particularly important with young girls, who may not be able to easily exit a building or remember meeting places.
- ❖ **Create and follow a buddy system**, grouping the girls by two or three.

These common sense practices should be in place, but due to our past comfort level, may have been overlooked. Use your good judgment in reviewing and practicing them with your girls. Our intent is to act in their best interest, without causing alarm. Fortunately, our schools educate and practice fire safety, so these practices should be familiar. In fact, approaching this issue from the standpoint of 'good fire safety' may be the best venue.

Thank you for your diligence, and for keeping *'the girl first in Girl Scouting'*. Please feel free to contact Pam Jernstedt-Duhaime, 908-725-1226 x118 or e-mail pjernstedt@girlscouts-rh.org with your questions.