

Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Council

Best Practices for Non-Member Children attending GGC events/activities

Introduction

Sometimes, Guiders may need to bring their non-member children to Guiding activities. This document is designed to provide guidance on how these situations are to be managed to ensure the safety of all participants and quality programming for registered members.

It is understood that Girl Guides of Canada programs are designed and planned for girls who are members (kindergarten to age of majority). Participation of non-member children should not be on an on-going or regular basis.

This document is designed to assist Members in planning for the occasional participation of non-member children.

Definitions and References

Non-member children (NMC) – For the purposes of this document, NMC include babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers, or children of any age or gender who are NOT registered members of Girl Guides of Canada.

Guests (Safe Guide page 11) – Adults or children who participate in a Guiding activity who are not registered members of GGC.

Permission for participation by Guests (Safe Guide page 19) – Before guests participate in any Green level activity, the Guider must obtain emergency contact and pertinent health information (e.g. allergies) from their parent(s)/guardian(s). They do not have to complete a full Personal Health Form for Girl Members (H.1) for Green level activities.

For Yellow and Red level activities, a Parent/Guardian Permission (SG.2) form and Health form (H.1) must be provided. For Conditional activities and Adventure Activities, the Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement (SG.5) is also completed.

Supervision Ratios (Safe Guide page 24) – Ratios must include all girls and non-member children.

Note: When mothers bring their younger children to camp, sometimes they are distracted from their regular supervisory duties to attend to their children. These are some guidelines for managing this situation:

Have a discussion with all supervisors on how to manage this potential situation. Consider increasing the supervision ratio.

Inform all girls and their parents beforehand and take their concerns into consideration.

The supervision and care of the child should be the sole responsibility of the mother. Girls or other supervisors should not take part in the child's care.

For camps or sleepovers, ideally, the child and mother should have a separate sleeping area to ensure that the sleep of others is not interrupted or impacted.

Consider feeding schedules as well as diaper and toileting arrangements for infants or toddlers.

Follow the Males in Guiding requirements (page 27).

As a best practice, male children the same age as the girls or older should not attend. (e.g. six year old with Sparks). Boys over the age of eight should not attend.

Liability insurance coverage (National Insurance Program page 3) – The definition of an “insured” includes but is not limited to:Any member of GGC including member of Sparks, Brownies, Guides or other branches; registered adult members; and guest (while participating in any sanctioned activity).

Girl Member Registration (Guiding Essentials page 27) – Girls who want to become members of GGC must register and pay a fee.

Code of Conduct (items 8 and 9) – The Code of Conduct requires all members and volunteers to adhere to GGC's policies and procedures and to fulfill their roles and responsibilities as stated in their position descriptions (where applicable) and act within the limitations of their authority in the discharge of their duties.

Considerations

While the Safe Guide reference above from page 24 specifically refers to CAMP, these provisions should apply when planning and implementing ANY Guiding activity or event. In addition to these general considerations, the following additional considerations apply when NMC participate in Guiding activities/events:

- Obtain the consent of all supervisors before confirming attendance of NMC
- Inform all parents of registered members and registered members beforehand and take any concerns into consideration

- NMC should be listed on the SG.3 for yellow and red activities under “other” and their ages stated
- NMC must be included in participation numbers for the purposes of determining supervision ratios
- NMC CANNOT participate in Travel in Canada over 72 hours or International travel over 72 hours.
- Supervision of the NMC is the sole responsibility of the parent. Girls or other supervisors should not be requested to supervise the NMC in any way. The NMC parent is solely responsible for the NMC during an emergency.
- When determining the required number of supervisors for an activity, the ability of the parent to carry out the full range of supervisory responsibilities at all time during the activity must be assessed. If this cannot be assured, the parent should NOT be included in supervision ratios OR alternative childcare for the NMC should be provided during the activity/event to enable the parent to fulfil her GGC supervisory role.
- For overnight activities, sleeping arrangements for NMC should ensure that sleep for other supervisors and girls are not interrupted.
- If required, provisions for diaper changing and safe disposal of diapers need to be established.
- All Safe Guide provisions – including relevant forms, supporting documents, emergency response plans etc – need to include NMC.

Specific Considerations – Male NMC

- Safe Guide Males in Guiding requirements (page 27), must be followed (separate sleeping quarters, washrooms, washing facilities).
- Girls should have a voice in their comfort level with male NMC participation.

Conclusion

TBD