

Girl Scouts of Western Washington
Policy for High Adventure Activities

Girl Scouts of Western Washington (GSWW) encourages girl-directed activities and supports girls undertaking new ventures that teach and challenge them. However, the activities must fit within Girl Scout goals, be conducted within GSWW standards for safety, and not require undue time for GSWW staff or appointed volunteers to research, validate, and develop safety standards for.

The GSWW board of directors believes that “high adventure” activities, including but not limited to those activities in *Safety Wise* that require written authorization by a council, should not be prohibited when girls: 1) can clearly explain how the activity fits within Girl Scout goals, 2) are old enough to research and safely undertake the activity, and 3) acceptable safety standards exist or can be created.

GSWW staff or designated volunteers will determine whether an activity meets the above criteria. In reaching this determination, GSWW staff/volunteers may, but are not required to, conduct independent research, consult with other councils, and create safety standards that reflect their knowledge of the activity and of the geographic location in which the activity is to be conducted. GSWW may also require that a permitted activity be conducted only through an approved vendor/organization that meets designated safety standards, including, when appropriate, proof of accreditation or certification by recognized accreditation organizations or associations.

If the activity is denied, the troop, interest group or individual girl may appeal the decision to the GSWW Chief Operating Officer, whose decision will be final.

Girl Scout Goals:

When requesting to undertake a particular “high adventure” activity as a troop or interest group, girls will assess how the activity fits within the four Girl Scout program goals:

1. Girls will develop to their full potential through activities that:
 - Foster girls’ feelings of self-acceptance and unique self-worth;
 - Promote girls’ perception of themselves as competent, responsible, and open to new experiences and challenge;
 - Offer girls opportunities to learn new skills;
 - Encourage girls’ personal growth;
 - Allow girls to utilize and practice talents and abilities.
2. Girls will relate to others with increasing understanding, skill, and respect through activities that:
 - Help girls develop sensitivity to others and respect for their needs, feelings, and rights;
 - Promote an understanding and appreciation of individual, cultural, religious, and racial differences;
 - Foster the ability to build friendships and working relationships.
3. Girls will develop a meaningful set of values to guide their actions and to provide the foundation for sound decision-making through activities that:
 - Help girls develop meaningful values and ethics that will guide their actions;
 - Foster an ability to make decisions that are consistent with girls’ values and that reflect respect for the rights and needs of others;
 - Empower girls to act upon their values and convictions;
 - Encourage girls to re-examine their ideals as they mature.
4. Girls will contribute to the improvement of society through the use of their abilities and leadership skills, working in cooperation with others through activities that:
 - Help girls develop concern for the well-being of their communities;
 - Promote girls’ understanding of how the quality of community affects every member of society;
 - Encourage girls to use their skills to work with others for the benefit of all.