

Safety Activity Checkpoints

Change Memo August 2026

This change memo summarizes updates made to the *Safety Activity Checkpoints* document in August 2026. The document was updated to provide clarification on several items, remove duplicate or outdated language, and correct typos throughout. The changes below are intended to improve accuracy, consistency, and readability while supporting councils and volunteers in applying the guidance.

P 6 – Introduction – First sentence, second paragraph was revised to: *All organizations operating under the Girl Scout name, including local councils, and USA Girl Scouts Overseas (USAGSO), are responsible for ensuring that all activities are planned and executed in a way that prioritizes the health, safety, and general well-being of all participants, in line with these standard safety guidelines*

P 14 – Safety Standards – First paragraph “NOTE: These rules...” was duplicated from previous page and was deleted.

P19 – When Using a LifeJacket – Missing bullets were added. Corrected below:
When selecting a life jacket, consider the following:

- **Use only USCG-approved PFDs**. The label will clearly show if it is approved.
- **Choose the right life jacket for your activity:**
 - Most entry-level recreational users will use Type II or III life jackets. They are comfortable, easy to fit, and have sufficient buoyancy for most situations.
 - Inflatable PFDs are not meant for those under 16.
 - Ask your expert/instructor if you’re unsure.
- **Choose the right size:**
 - Check the label. It should say whether it’s for an adult, youth, child, or infant.
 - Check the label for the appropriate weight or chest size.
- **Check condition:**
 - There should be no rips, tears, or broken buckles.
 - Zippers should stay zipped.
- **Fit the life jacket properly:**
 - Put the life jacket on, inspecting it for wear, rips, broken buckles, straps, or zippers. Do not use a life jacket in poor condition.
 - Zip all zippers. Buckle and tighten all straps. If the straps or zippers can’t close, it’s too small. If there is a crotch strap, use it.
 - Lift the life jacket at the shoulders. If it rides up to the earlobes, it’s too big. Tighten the straps, if possible, or find a smaller size.

P 19 – First Aider Certification Chart – Top right of Chart - Groups of up to 200 was revised: *Standard First Aid/CPR/AED training. Adult and Pediatric training is recommended. Training should be appropriate for the age of your group.*

P 35 – Animal Interactions Checkpoint – Under Swimming with the Dolphins and Other Interactive Experiences. *"See the "Choosing a Partner Organization" section below"* was deleted.

P 94 – Kayaking Checkpoint - Small Craft Safety Training bullet was added as the second bullet item under "Identify an Expert": *Girl Scouts Small Craft Safety Course (with kayak module)*

P 113- Packrafting Checkpoint – Consider Special Conditions: *Kayaking* was removed and replaced with *packrafting*

P 140 – Snorkeling Checkpoint – Under decision making phase: *Shoot* was removed and replaced with *Snorkel*

P 165 – Travel/Trips Checkpoint - Added a line to the bottom of the chart to match the travel progression chart. The last line should say "Individual Travel" and C S A and YES should be added for council approval

P 175 – Whitewater rafting Checkpoint – Under Identify a Professional Guide, last bullet - *packrafting* was replaced with *whitewater rafting*