

Criminal Background Check FAQ

What is the cost of a Criminal Background Check?

The cost for a Criminal Background Check is \$8.50

Who pays for the Criminal Background Check?

The Volunteers cover the cost associated with the Criminal Background Check, unless you are in a leadership position with a Troop (Primary Leader, Co-Leaders) and/or on the Service Team; then Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina will cover the cost of your Criminal Background Check as part of the *Lead on Us* Council initiative.

Who is the Background Check vendor for Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina?

Sterling Volunteers, one of two GSUSA approved companies, is the vendor Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina uses for Criminal Background Checks.

Who needs a Criminal Background Check?

All Primary Leaders, Co-Leaders, registered Volunteers and parents who directly interact with Girls on a Troop, Service Unit or Council level, and are part of the Girl-Adult Ratio as well as the Troop Committee Members (Cookie Mom, Treasurer, Chaperone etc.).

How do I start my Criminal Background Check if I am in a leadership role i.e. I am a Co-Leader?

You will receive a system automated email asking you to submit the Background Check.

What if I don't receive the email to complete the Criminal Background Check?

First check the Spam or Junk folder in your email account. If you don't find the email in your Junk or Spam folder contact CustomerCare@girlscoutseasc.org

How do I start my Criminal Background Check if I am not in a leadership role but interact with Girls?

After you complete your online membership registration you will receive an automated email with a link to complete your Criminal Background Check.

If you register via paper form you will receive an email with a link to complete your Criminal Background Check once your membership registration is logged in the system.

If you do not receive the automated link you can use the link <https://app.sterlingvolunteers.com>

Once you create a log-in it will prompt you for a Good Deed Code, which is **xqduqk4**.

Or you can contact CustomerCare@girlscoutseasc.org

Does Sterling Volunteers run a Credit Check as part of the Criminal Background Check?

No! The Criminal Background Check does not include a Credit Check.

How often does the Criminal Background Check need to be submitted?

The Criminal Background Check is good for 3 years.

Will I be prompted to renew my Criminal Background Check once it is about to expire?

Yes, you will receive several email notifications prior to the expiration date.

Can I submit a Criminal Background Check from another organization?

Yes, if the Criminal Background Check is less than one year old and GSESC receives a copy of the actual Background Check.

Can I share the Criminal Background Check with another organization?

Yes! You can share it directly through Verified Volunteers if the organization uses the same vendor. Otherwise Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina can email you a copy of your Criminal Background Check for you to share.

Can I see who has completed their Criminal Background Check in my Troop?

Yes! You can see who has completed their Criminal Background Check when you login to my "Member Profile" under MYGS and click on "Troops". The Background Check is not visible on the Troop Roster in the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK).

Is the Criminal Background Check fee refundable?

No. Criminal Background Check fees are non-refundable.

What is the Girl-Adult Ratio?

The Girl-Adult Ratio is the number of Adults needed in relation to the number of registered Girls at Troop meetings and Troop outings. This number varies by Grade Level and whether it is a Troop meeting or an outing. Each Troop needs at least two trained Co-Leaders who are unrelated, at least one of whom is a female.

What is a Troop Committee?

A Troop Committee is comprised of Troop Volunteers who take on specific roles/jobs for the duration of the Membership Year such as Cookie Mom, Treasurer, Chaperone, etc.

How can an adult who has not completed a Criminal Background Check be involved with the Troop?

Adult members who do not complete a Background Check are still members of the organization; however, they may only interact with their own girl/family members.

Permissible activities are:

- Attend troop events and meetings open to families (ex: bridging and awards events is okay)
- Attend service unit events open to families (ex: World Thinking Day is okay; sleeping in a cabin with multiple Girl Scouts is not okay.)
- Attend council events open to families (ex: Beach cleanup is okay; chaperoning multiple Girl Scout members at a STEM program is not okay.)
- Work on Girl Scout activities with their girl on their own (ex: Girl Scout may choose to participate as a Juliette, chaperoning their own girl at a cookie booth with no other Girl Scouts present is okay)
- Assist a troop in ways that do not involve interacting with girls, driving, or handling funds (ex: providing snacks is okay; regularly attending Troop meetings is not okay)