

Girl Scout Activity Centers – FAQ

Girl Scouts of Orange County opened two new Girl Scout Activity Centers in the fall of 2020. These centers are in addition to our current [Program Center facilities and Girl Scout Leadership Center](#). Please review the below FAQ for answers to questions you may have or may receive about these new activity centers.

Where are the new Girl Scout Activity Centers located?

Girl Scouts of Orange County plans to open Girl Scout Activity Centers in two locations across the county – including the Shops at Mission Viejo and Brea Mall. The addresses for the activity centers are:

- **The Shops at Mission Viejo**
555 The Shops at Mission Viejo, sp. #202A, Mission Viejo, CA 92691
- **Brea Mall**
065 Brea Mall, sp. #1047, Brea, CA 926821

When will the new Girl Scout Activity Centers open?

We are currently preparing the centers to welcome staff, volunteers, members, and the public. Our target opening date for the Mission Viejo Activity Center is November 1, 2020 and December 1, 2020 for the Brea Activity Center.

Why is Girl Scouts of Orange County opening these new Girl Scout Activity Centers?

The primary purpose for opening the Girl Scout Activity Centers is to address three issues we heard from our members: lack of troop meeting space; lack of booth locations for our Girl Scout Product Programs; and limited access to schools for recruiting due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The new Girl Scout Activity Centers will be available for scheduled troop and volunteer meetings, as reserved cookie booth locations, and as a location for council-sponsored program activities (story time, badge activities, and etc.).

Why were these locations selected?

The locations were selected as a result of a partnership between GSUSA and Simon Malls. Girl Scouts of Orange County decided to lease these specific locations based on our needs and availability within Orange County.

Is GSOC planning to open additional Girl Scout Activity Centers in other areas of Orange County?

We have plans to open three locations: one in the south (The Shops at Mission Viejo), one in north (Brea Mall), and one in the central regions of Orange County. The central location is still being finalized and will be announced soon. GSOC will evaluate the effectiveness and return on investment of these three locations before considering opening any additional Activity Centers.

What hours will the Girl Scout Activity Centers be open?

The operating hours at each activity center are 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Monday – Saturday and 12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m. on Sunday.



Mall operation hours may be adjusted due to [county and state guidelines](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

How many girls will the Girl Scout Activity Centers host at one time?

In line with Girl Scouts of Orange County's current [COVID 19 Guidance](#), the Girl Scout Activity Centers will host 14 girls and 2 adults for girl activities or 15 adults for service unit meetings at a time.

Can our troop bring food and snacks into the Girl Scout Activity Centers?

Yes, as long as you follow [GSOC's COVID-19 Guidance for Food, Dining, and Snacks](#). Troops are responsible for disposing of trash and cleaning the area after the snack/food is served.

What resources will be available for our troop at the Girl Scout Activity Centers?

The Girl Scout Activity Centers will have tables, chairs, and WiFi available for you to use. Program supplies (such as art supplies for crafts, badge booklets, etc.) must be provided by the troop.

How long is the lease for the Girl Scout Activity Centers? Will leases be renewed when they expire?

The lease for each location is for one year. GSOC will evaluate the effectiveness and return on investment for each location prior to renewing the lease.

How can troops reserve time to meet at the Girl Scout Activity Centers?

Reservations will follow the same process as our Girl Scouts of Orange County Program Centers. To reserve time at the Girl Scout Activity Centers, troops and volunteers should complete the [Program Center Reservation & Facility Agreement](#).

How can troops reserve time to sell cookies at the Girl Scout Activity Centers?

The GSOC Entrepreneurship team will invite troops to sign-up to participate in a council booth sale lottery to be held in January, specifically for the GSOC Activity Centers. Open booth spots at these two centers that are not filled during the lottery, will be opened to schedule on a first-come, first-serve basis through the booth sale scheduler in ABC Smart Cookies beginning in February.

Will there be a cost to troops to reserve the Girl Scout Activity Centers?

At this time, there is no cost for troops and volunteers to reserve the Girl Scout Activity Centers. Use of the centers is exclusively for Girl Scout members and a benefit of your membership.

How will GSOC ensure the safety and cleanliness of the Girl Scout Activity Centers during the pandemic?

All troops and volunteers using the centers will be required to follow all [GSOC COVID-19 Guidelines](#), including wearing face coverings, wiping down surfaces before and after use, and submitting a [COVID-19 Screening Form](#) each time they participate in a Girl Scout activity. Some cleaning supplies will be available at the center, but troops should plan to bring hand sanitizer, gloves, and face masks for adults and children that cover their nose and mouth. Additionally, Girl Scouts of Orange County will clean and sanitize the centers daily.

For additional information on mall safety protocols, please review [California's Industry Guidance on Shopping Centers](#).



Will Girl Scout Shop merchandise be sold at the Girl Scout Activity Centers?

While there may occasionally be merchandise tied to specific events available for sale at the activity centers, we have no plans to broadly sell Girl Scout merchandise at the activity centers.

Will there be mall security at the Girl Scout Activity Centers?

There is mall security at each mall, but not inside the Girl Scout Activity Centers. A GSOC staff member will be onsite at each Activity Center.

Can we use the Girl Scout Activity Centers for troop sleepovers?

No, sleepovers are not permitted at the Girl Scout Activity Centers at this time.

Will INSPIRE™ be available at the Girl Scout Activity Centers?

Not at this time, but that's a great idea that we will consider for the future!

Who will staff the Girl Scout Activity Centers?

GSOC employees will work from the Girl Scout Activity Centers, Monday – Sunday, and be responsible for opening and closing the centers.

Can I volunteer to help at the Girl Scout Activity Centers?

Yes; please contact Melissa Rodriguez, Community Volunteer Specialist at mrodriguez@girlscoutsoc.org to let us know you would like to volunteer.

Can troops still have their gift-wrapping station at the mall?

Yes; troops interested in having a gift-wrap station at the mall will follow the standard GSOC process to apply for this money-earning activity.

Will volunteers receive keys to the Girl Scout Activity Centers?

No. At this time, volunteers will access the centers when GSOC staff are present.

Are there restrooms available inside the Girl Scout Activity Centers?

Yes. Restroom facilities are available inside the Girl Scout Activity Centers.