

Adventure and Theme Parks: Safety Activity Checkpoints



Adventure and theme parks take a wide variety of forms depending on where they are located and the audience they are geared toward. Adventure and theme parks are commercially operated enterprises that offer rides, games, activities, and other forms of entertainment. To ensure a safe park experience, it's important to look at the various activities individually for safety, communicate with girls about ride and crowd safety, and to encourage girls to act responsibly. Search for [U.S. theme parks](#) by state at About.com. Remember, some activities have age, height, and weight restrictions.

Caution: Girls are not allowed to operate motorized vehicles, such as go-carts, without council permission. Any activities with uncontrolled free falling, such as bungee jumping, are not allowed.

Include girls with disabilities. Communicate with girls of all abilities and/or their caregivers to assess any needs and accommodations. Learn more about the resources and information that [Disabled World](#) provides to people with disabilities.

Recommended Park Gear

- Casual and comfortable clothing suitable for the weather (long, flowing garments are not worn)
- Sunscreen (SPF of at least 15) and sunglasses, as needed
- All hats, glasses, purses, and other such items are secured during activities or not taken on activities
- Comfortable footwear appropriate to the conditions

Prepare for the Park Activity

- Communicate with council and parents. See the Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints.
- Girls plan the activity. See the Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints.
- Arrange transportation and adult supervision. See the Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints for the recommended adult-to-girl ratios.
- Ensure safety of theme-park rides.* Obtain full information about the rides and other activities and evaluate them for safety. Verify in advance that the park carries liability insurance.
- Select a safe location. Inspect the site to be sure it is free of potential hazards, and make sure emergency medical care, first-aid equipment and supplies are easily accessible. In the event of illness or accident, notify the nearest park attendant.
- Encourage girls to plan the trip. Girls and adults determine the appropriate time of day and length of the visit to the park.

- Compile key contacts. See the Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints.
- Dress appropriately for the activity. Make sure girls and adults avoid wearing dangling earrings, bracelets, and necklaces that may become entangled in activities.
- Be prepared in the case of an emergency. Ensure the presence of a first-aid kit and a first-aider with a current certificate in first aid, including adult and child CPR or CPR/AED, who is prepared to handle cases of abrasions, sprains, and fractures. Emergency transportation is available; if any part of the activity is located 30 minutes or more from emergency medical services, ensure the presence of a first-aider with wilderness first-aid training. See *Volunteer Essentials* for information about first-aid standards and training.

On the Day of the Park Activity

- If going to an outdoor park, get a weather report. See the Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints. Use the buddy system. See the Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints.
- Review plans upon arrival. Adults obtain a copy of the park guide—to facilitate the visit and gain important information on park policies and the location of restrooms and the first-aid station. Adults pay special attention to any safety tips or warnings and share this information with the girls. Adults discuss plans for the visit with girls, and set a place to meet in case of separation from the group.
- For water parks, follow Swimming Safety Activity Checkpoints. **Pay particular attention to water park safety rules.**
- Go Carts. The following rules apply to all go-cart activities:
 - Only Cadettes - Ambassadors are allowed to drive go-carts, and only with parent and council permission.
 - Go-carts must only be driven on properly supervised and maintained amusement part or recreational complex tracks. Go-carts are NOT allowed to be driven on camps, private property or public streets.
 - Girls must wear a helmet at all times, and long hair must be tucked up under their helmet.
 - Seat belts, if available, must be worn at all times.
 - Go-cart track speed limits must be strictly followed.
- Girls respect park rules and take general safety precautions. Each girl is instructed to consider her own personal limitations with regard to rides and activities:
- Girls should consider how they are affected by height, speed, movement, and flashing lights.
- Parks have policies and signs restricting access to certain rides and activities because of height, weight, or other criteria.
- Adults instruct girls to look for and comply with all safety-related signs and instructions given by ride operators.
- In extremely hot weather, girls go on rides and do other outdoor activities in the morning and late afternoon hours, and go inside for meals, stage shows, and so on during the warmest time of the day.
- On rides, girls and adults remain seated and always keep their arms and legs inside the car at all times.
- Seat belts or restraint bars are always used and are never removed during rides.
- Any unsafe conditions, such as slippery floors, broken seat belts, and nonfunctioning exit signs are reported to the nearest park attendant.
- Girls and adults use all provided safety equipment including harnesses, auto belay, goggles, etc.
- Keep track of girls' whereabouts. Conduct a head count before and after activities. Ensure that girls know where to go and how to act when confronted by strangers or intruders.

Park Link [International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions](#)

*These checkpoints must be reviewed with the vendor and/or facility, when appropriate.