



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 towards. Adventure and theme parks are a 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 that 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.

Park Gear

Recommended 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. Discuss with the park manager or safety officer safety procedures, maintenance programs, insurance coverage, and other matters of concern. 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. See *Volunteer Essentials* for information about first-aid standards and training.

On the Day of the Park Activity

- ❑ **If an outdoor park get a weather report.** On the morning of the activity, check weather.com or other reliable weather sources to determine if conditions are appropriate, and make sure that the ground is free of ice. If severe weather conditions prevent the activity, be prepared with a backup plan or alternate activity, or postpone the activity. Write, review, and practice evacuation and emergency plans for severe weather with girls. In the event of a storm, take shelter away from tall objects (including trees, buildings, and electrical poles). Find the lowest point in an open flat area. Squat low to the ground on the balls of the feet, and place hands on knees with head between them.
- ❑ **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 paying particular attention to water park safety rules.
- ❑ **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 :
 - How she is affected by height, speed, movement, 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: www.iaapa.org

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