

Our main goal is to provide a safe and fun camping experience for the girls. For many girls this can include sleeping, as a small group, in a tent or a separate area of the lodge, without having an adult in the tent or sleeping area with them. With proper planning and safety strategies in place, the overall camping experience for girls on their own is quite different than if an adult is directly with them.

The Girl Guides of Canada motto is to 'Be Prepared', and that we are. Safety is maximized by securing the site. In the case of tents there should be no food in the tent and if in a public campground arrangements should be made for privacy. As there is no sound proofing in a tent, Guiders would pitch their tent next to or around the girls' tents to be aware of what is happening in the girls' tents and would hear if someone had to get up in the middle of the night. In a lodge or other type of residential sleeping quarters, Guiders could have a room across the hall or at the end of the hall, allowing them to monitor what's going on.

Many children will enjoy this opportunity for independence and will sleep safely and happily with their small group of Guiding friends if properly prepared for the experience. It is often the fear of the adults that is transfer to the girls.

However, we recognize that there may be circumstances where there is undue anxiety for participants or other reasons to consider having children and adults mixed. Discuss the pros and cons with the Guiders, your camping adviser and applicable parents before deciding what to do. Perhaps you agree to try it and see how it goes, with a back up plan in mind, just in case. If you do need to mix girls and adults in the same tent or sleeping quarters, we recommend that two adults are present. Remember, unscreened adults should not be put in a position where they could potentially be left one on one with a child who is not their own.