

Effective January 1, 2022, California State Assembly Bill 506 *Youth Service Organizations: Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention*, states a volunteer who volunteers directly with youth are required to take child abuse and neglect mandatory reporter training every two years. In addition, volunteers will also be required to have a cleared background check on file which includes fingerprinting. Here are answers to some frequently asked questions:

Q: What is the process for fulfilling AB506's training requirements?

A: Complete the 636 GSNorCal Mandated Reporter course on [gsLearn](#). First, take the 5-minute GSNorCal Mandated Reporter Overview module for details on how to complete the course. Then, take the two-hour [California Child Abuse Mandated Reporter Training](#) for Volunteers available on the state's website. After, upload your CA completion certificate to module 2, Upload Proof of Mandated Reporter Training Completion. Finally, complete the 30-minute GSNorCal Mandated Reporter Policies and Procedures module, which goes over GSNorCal's specific policies and procedures. Once complete, this course is valid for two years. You can print your GSNorCal Mandated Reporter Certificate or [Achievement Record](#) for proof of completion to show troop and service unit leaders, as requested.

Q: I am already required to take mandated reporter training through my employer (or other youth organization where I also volunteer). Do I have to take the training again?

A: If you have taken mandated reporter training in the past two years, you can upload your proof of certification in the 636 GSNorCal Mandated Reporter Course, module 2. You will still be required to take the Overview module and Policies and Procedures module as outlined above.

Q: When is the due date for taking the Mandated Reporter Training course?

A: Current volunteers who work directly with youth should take the modules and training course as soon as possible, but no later than June 1, 2022. New volunteers will be required to take the modules and training courses before their volunteer status is confirmed.

Q: Do guest speakers attending our troop meetings need to take the training?

A: No, they do not. Only Girl Scout volunteers, e.g., troop leaders, troop treasurers, troop chaperones, troop drivers, product program managers, troop and event first aiders, trip/outdoor/camp advisors, and event managers are required to take the training.

Q: How was this Mandated Reporter training chosen?

A: This course, funded by the California Department of Social Services and the Office of Child Abuse Prevention and created by professionals in the field of child abuse and neglect, was highly recommended by AB506.

Q: Why are there multiple components involved in this mandated reporter training?

A: The California State training is very generic and does not provide the level of detail that our volunteers need to know to carry out their volunteer roles at GSNorCal.

Q: Am I able to start and stop the two-hour training Mandated Reporter Training course?

A: The creators of this training course have designed it so that it can be paused and resumed, although they recommend taking it in one two-hour block of time.

Q: By taking this training does this mean that I am required to report child abuse?

A: Volunteers have an important role in protecting children from abuse and neglect. As a Girl Scout Volunteer, our Volunteer Policy and Safety Guidelines require you to report abuse to council staff. Although volunteers are not required by law to report suspected child abuse and neglect, you are encouraged to do so. If you do not feel comfortable filing a report, you should contact your Volunteer Support Manager (VSM) for support. If you do not know who that is, contact info@gsnorcal.org to be put in contact with your VSM.

Q: When will fingerprinting be available?

A: We are excited to announce that Live Scan fingerprinting began on May 18th, 2023 and is now available for all volunteers. Fingerprinting will be free to all volunteers through the end of 2024. Read more about the [new background screening process](#).

Q: I was fingerprinted years ago as part of the GSNorCal background screening process. Will I need to be fingerprinted again?

A: In order to ensure complete compliance with the latest laws and regulations, we are requesting all volunteers who have been fingerprinted in the past to be rescanned. The previous fingerprint background checks no longer meet the current standards. Watch for an email during the summer to invite you to complete the new process. Thank you for understanding the importance of maintaining a safe and secure environment for everyone involved.

Q: What do I do if I suspect abuse or neglect?

A: If you suspect abuse or neglect follow the procedures outlined in your Mandated Reporter Training. Use the [Volunteer Mandated Reporter Training Tip Sheet](#) for a review of possible warning signs and steps to take if you suspect abuse or neglect.

Contact info@gsnorcal.org with any additional questions.