

Boy Scouts of America / New Birth of Freedom Council

Council Camp Mitigation Plan for COVID-19

Introduction:

While the New Birth of Freedom Council remains concerned for the dangers of COVID-19, we also believe it is important for the physical and mental well-being of our youth to return to physical and outdoor activities, when that can occur in a reasonably safe environment. With that goal in mind, the New Birth of Freedom Council (council), following the recommendations and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), PA Department of Health (DOH), and the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), has created the following mitigation and action plans for re-opening and operating the council camping facilities while decreasing the risk for exposure to COVID-19. Based on the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and changing nature of the recommendations, this plan may be adjusted or even suspended.

Despite following this plan and the appropriate public health recommendations, risk of exposure and/or contracting COVID-19 cannot be completely eliminated. Each individual, parent, and unit should evaluate the current situation and decide on the appropriateness of attending camp. Individuals or units living in a red or hot zone will not be permitted in camp. Individuals at Higher Risk of COVID-19 should also consult their health care provider for recommendations concerning attending camp. Individuals at Higher Risk include individual with increasing age and individuals of all ages with cancer, chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, immunocompromised state from solid organ transplant, obesity (body mass index of 30 or higher), serious heart conditions (such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies), sickle cell disease, and type 2 diabetes mellitus. Individuals who may be at Higher Risk include individuals of all ages with asthma (moderate-to-severe), cerebrovascular disease, cystic fibrosis, high blood pressure, immunocompromised state (from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune compromising medicines), neurologic conditions (such as dementia), liver disease, pregnancy, pulmonary fibrosis, smoking, thalassemia, and type 1 diabetes mellitus.

Camp Facility Information:

Based on the current PA DOH guidelines, buildings are to be used at no more than 50% capacity of permitted occupancy and no more than 25 individuals at a time. The camp cabins will be available with the below listed capacities:

- **Cabin Capacity Based on 50% Occupancy:**

- **Tuckahoe:** Poplar Lodge (10), Cedar Lodge (14), Maple Lodge (14), Hemlock Lodge (20), Holly Lodge (20), Frontier Fort (20), Medieval Castle (20)
- **Hidden Valley:** AMP Lodge (12), Herbert Lodge (12), Ritter Lodge (12), Thunderbird Lodge (12), Whitaker Lodge (14), Labor Lodge (23), Rotary Lodge (25) Kiwanis I (12), Kiwanis II (12), Stockade Cabins (12), Oelwein Cabins(4), Crissy's Place (3).
- **Conewago:** Main Lodge (10), Small Cabin (5), Rothrock (4).

Units will also be able to use campsites for tent camping. Each campsite will be limited to 25 individuals (combined youth and adults). Each unit is responsible for providing their own tents. It is recommended that only one individual sleeps per tent, unless the tent is shared with a family member.

Currently the dining halls, trading posts, and shower facilities will not be available due to concerns for maintaining appropriate social distancing and timely cleaning / disinfecting.

Considerations for Camping and Outdoor Activities:

Prior to Arrival at Camp:

- **Council / District Sponsored Events:**

- Each individual should complete the COVID-19 – Screening Form and bring it to camp.
- Upon arrival at camp, the COVID-19 – Screening Form will be reviewed and a body temperature will be measured. The COVID-19 – Screening Form will be collected and maintained by the Director of Camping for a minimum of 6 months.
 - If an individual has any COVID-19 symptoms, recent COVID-19 exposure, or a temperature above 100.4°F, the individual will not be allowed in camp.
- Each individual should ensure proper protective equipment – facial coverings and hand sanitizer.
- Transportation:
 - Limit the use of car pools or van pools. When riding in an automobile to a Scouting event, encourage Scouts to ride to the event with persons living in their same household.
 - When transporting Scouts not from the same household, all individuals in the car should practice all safety actions and protocols as indicated (hand hygiene and face coverings).
- An event roster with contact information will be prepared by the event staff and provided to the Camp Ranger or Director of Camping. This roster will be maintained for a minimum of 6 months.

- **Unit Events:**

- Unit leader prepares a unit roster with contact information to provide to the Camp Ranger or Campmaster. This roster will be maintained by the council for a minimum of 6 months. Each unit is also recommended to maintain a copy of the roster for a minimum of 6 months.
- Complete individual camper screening:
 - Ensure each individual staying at camp has completed a COVID-19 – Screening Form. The COVID-19 Screening Form will be maintained by the unit.
 - Check a body temperature prior to departure to camp or upon arrival at camp.
 - If an individual has any COVID-19 symptoms, recent COVID-19 exposure, or a temperature above 100.4°F, the individual will not be allowed in camp.
- Remember to pack an adequate amount of COVID-19 specific supplies: hand soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, and masks.
- Transportation:
 - Limit the use of car pools or van pools. When riding in an automobile to a Scouting event, encourage Scouts to ride to the event with persons living in their same household.
 - When transporting Scouts not from the same household, all individuals in the car should practice all safety actions and protocols as indicated (hand hygiene and face coverings).

General Principles for Decreasing Exposure Risk during Camp:

- Face coverings / masks:
 - Teach and reinforce the use of cloth face coverings. To comply with the PA DOH expanded mask-wearing order, face coverings **MUST** be worn by scout leaders, other adults, and campers even in outdoor settings where individuals are unable to consistently maintain a distance of six feet from individuals who are not members of their household.
 - Face coverings should be worn indoors when social distancing is not possible.
 - Face coverings should cover both the nose and mouth.
 - Do not share face coverings / masks.
 - Cloth face coverings should not be placed on:
 - Babies or children younger than 2 years old.
 - Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious.
 - Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face cover without help.

- Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette:
 - Teach and reinforce hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among campers.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used.
 - Encourage individuals to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into the elbow.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used.
- Sleeping Arrangements:
 - Align beds or sleeping mats so that individuals sleep head-to-toe and are at least 6 feet apart. Unavailable beds in the cabin will be identified with signs.
 - Sleep only one person per tent, unless family members are sharing the tent.
 - Avoid touching zippers or doors of other tents.
 - Do not wear a face covering or mask while sleeping.
 - When feasible, leave cabin doors and windows open for ventilation.
- Cleaning:
 - Monitor and enforce social distancing and healthy hygiene behaviors throughout the day and night.
 - Encourage Scouts and participants to avoid placing toothbrushes or toiletries directly on counter surfaces.
 - Clean and disinfect bathrooms regularly (e.g., in the morning and evening, after times of heavy use). Develop a schedule for routine cleaning and disinfection.
 - Avoid using other unit's latrines.
 - Cabins and common areas will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected by the Camp Ranger or Staff before campers arrive and after campers depart.
- Equipment:
 - Discourage the sharing of items that are difficult to clean, sanitize, or disinfect.
 - Keep each camper's belongings separated from others.
 - Ensure adequate supplies to minimize the sharing of high-touch materials to the extent possible (e.g., assign supplies or equipment to a single camper), or limit the use of supplies and equipment to one group of campers at a time and clean and disinfect between use.
 - Avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids.
- Food and Drink:
 - Space seating at least 6 feet apart.
 - To the extent that it is practical, all individuals should bring their own water and drinks to Scout activities.
 - Water coolers even when using disposable cups could contribute to the spread of COVID-19 and their use should be avoided unless absolutely necessary. Units must strictly limit the number of people touching the cooler and practice good hand hygiene when dispensing water from coolers (e.g., set specific water refill breaks and have one adult wearing gloves be responsible for pushing the button/opening the valve on the water cooler instead of each Scout doing it for himself/herself).
 - Water fountains should not be used.
 - Use disposable food service items (utensils, dishes). If disposable items are not feasible or desirable, ensure that all non-disposable food service items are handled with gloves and washed with dish soap and hot water. Individuals should wash their hands after removing their gloves or after directly handling used food service items.
 - No self-serve buffet meals.

- Planning:
 - As feasible, plan activities which provide social distancing, limit personal contact, and limit sharing of equipment.
 - Combined activities with other units are currently prohibited.
 - Protect Scouts and Volunteers who are at Higher Risk of Severe Illness from COVID-19. Offer options for Scouts and volunteers who are at higher risk for severe illness (including older adults and people of all ages with certain underlying medical conditions) that limit exposure risk.
 - Have a plan if a person becomes sick. Scouts who have had close contact with a person who has symptoms should be separated and follow CDC guidance for community-related exposure. If symptoms develop, individuals who are sick should be cared for following CDC guidance for caring for yourself or others who are sick.
 - Current recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control can be found at the following website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
 - If a concern for COVID-19 exposure or illness, follow the New Birth of Freedom Council – COVID-19 Action Plan outlined below.
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New Birth of Freedom Council – COVID-19 Action Plan

- If an individual develops symptoms of COVID-19 and/or a fever greater than 100.4°F while at camp, initiate the COVID-19 Action Plan. Notify the Camp Ranger, Director of Camping, or Professional Council Employee.
 - Symptoms of COVID-19 include:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- **Unit Leader Responsibilities:**
 - Protect your health with personal protective equipment - mask and gloves.
 - Isolate the potentially infected person from the group.
 - Notify the parents / legal guardians of concern for COVID-19 exposure / illness.
 - Ensure the individual is transported for medical care or returned to the care of his parents / legal guardian.
 - Follow-up with the parents / legal guardian to check on the camper's condition and to inquire if a medical diagnosis is available. Report any positive COVID-19 cases to the Director of Camping.
- **Council Employee Responsibilities:**
 - Protect your health with personal protective equipment - mask and gloves.
 - If a council employee is exposed, as part of their course and scope of employment, it should be

reported to your worker's compensation carrier.

- Contact the Scout Executive.
 - The Scout Executive will alert the Area / Regional Director and PR@Scouting.org
 - The Scout Executive will contact the Executive Board leadership as needed.
- Determine any Scouting interaction that any presumptive or confirmed positive individual had in the last 14 days. Only provide the name of the individual when necessary to determine these interactions. Otherwise, maintain their privacy.
 - Create a list, with contact information, of everyone who may have been exposed within that time frame.
- Notify the PA Department of Health.
- Contact each person who may have been exposed to check on their health status.
 - If the list is a manageable size, call each person. PR@Scouting.org can provide a call script.
 - If the list is large, email the group using an approved template from PR@Scouting.org
- Create a BSA incident report documenting it as COVID-19.
 - <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/>
 - <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/covid-19-incidents-exposures-supplemental-instructions/>
 - Upload potential exposure contact list and details of Scouting interactions. Model contact exposure spreadsheet is available from the above link.
- Staff or Camp Ranger will sanitize the infected area 48 hours after the group departs camp or event.