

East Carolina Council's Recommended Guidelines for Scouting Activities in Phase 2 of COVID-19

Updated: 8-6-2020

The safety of our Scouts, leaders, families, and staff remains our top priority. This is an ever-changing situation. We thank you for your patience as we move forward.

We have seen what happens when people do not follow safety procedures. **Strict adherence to these procedures must be followed for the safety of all.** It is important to understand the risks and know how to be as safe as possible.

People at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and those who live with them, should not participate. **Everyone should take steps to prevent getting and spreading COVID-19** to protect themselves, their communities, and people who are at increased risk of severe illness. In general, **the more people you interact with, the more closely you interact with them, and the longer that interaction, the higher your risk of getting and spreading COVID-19.**

Our Risk Management Committee has reviewed current information available from CDC and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and conferred with local infectious disease specialists. We are following their guidance. These decisions are made in the best interest of the safety of everyone. More information can be found here:

<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/guidance#phase-2-easing-of-restrictions>

1. **Units and committees are strongly encouraged to meet virtually.**
2. **Units and committees may meet in person following strict guidance from CDC and the State of North Carolina.**
 - a. Anyone who feels sick or has symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home.
 - b. Meetings or activities outside are best. No more than 25 people at a gathering outside.
 - c. No more than 10 people in any inside meeting.
 - d. Face coverings must be worn when people will be within 6 feet of each other.
 - e. Strive for activities that maintains 6 feet of separation between all participants.
 - f. Provide hand washing or hand sanitizing stations.
3. **Follow the BSA's "Restart Scouting Checklist", including:**
 - a. Communicating with parents and the Chartering Organization.
 - b. Screening upon arrival using the Screening Checklist.
 - c. Sanitizing equipment.
 - d. Wearing masks in any activity in which people are closer than 6 feet.
4. **All East Carolina Council camps are open for unit camping. Campsites are limited and restrooms are assigned to campsites to maintain a cohort and reduce the risk of community spread.**

At activities

- Avoid staying in buildings as much as possible.
- Maintain 6 feet separation between people.
- Do not shake hands. Greet others with a Scout salute.
- Use hand sanitizer.
- **Wash your hands frequently for at least 20-seconds.** (the length of time to sing the "ABCs" song once or the "Scout Oath" twice).

Unit activities

- Follow all actions above for pre-screening, hand washing, sanitizing surfaces, and separation.

- Keep as small a group as possible. The smaller the better.
- Utilize technology for meetings and activities – group chat, videos, video calls.
- Be creative in activities – perhaps den or patrol activities instead of pack or troop activities.
- Be vigilant washing dishes and utensils thoroughly.
- Avoid sharing food, utensils, and water bottles.

District meetings

- Utilize technology for meetings – group chats or video conference calls.
- If a meeting is critical, keep the group small.
- Meetings outside are best. No more than 25 people at a gathering outside.
- No more than 10 people in any inside meeting.
- Follow all actions for pre-screening, hand washing, sanitizing surfaces, and separation.

Continue Scouting. Look for program and activity ideas at www.eccbsa.org/scouting-at-home/. Scouts are looking for things to do at home. There are several technology options to conduct meetings, Scoutmaster Conferences, Boards of Review, and other activities. Do not stop Scouting! Scouts join for adventure – let's find new ways to deliver that adventure!



Restart Scouting Checklist

As always, the safety of our Scouts, volunteers, employees and communities is our top priority. This checklist outlines several minimum guiding protocols that adult leaders/volunteers must consider while working with local and state health departments, local councils, chartered organizations and Scouting families on when and how to resume meetings, service projects, camping and all other official Scouting activities.

If it is not practical to meet these minimal protocols, do not restart in-person activities.

S = Supervision

- Understand local and state guidance on preventing COVID-19 exposure.
- Engage your chartered organization and local council on necessary adjustments.
- Conduct the “before you gather” protocols.

A = Assessment

- Identify participants who fall under the CDC’s group of higher-risk individuals. Notify all participants about the risks of participating since COVID-19 exposure cannot be eliminated.
- Verify that the planned activity, gathering or group sizes are not prohibited by local or state orders.

F = Fitness and Skill

- Review Annual Health and Medical Records and consider using a [pre-event screening](#) for all participants.

E = Equipment and Environment

- Verify that handwashing, hygiene and cleaning supplies are available and used properly.
- Monitor social distancing, interactions and sharing of equipment and food among participants.
- Monitor participants for changing health conditions.
- Use the “as you gather” protocols.

SAFE ≠ Risk-Free

As the response to the pandemic shifts to a state-focused, phased approach, the Boy Scouts of America advises local councils to consult with their local and state health departments, as well as local chartered partners, to implement appropriate protocols to help keep our members, volunteers and employees safe.

Precautions and mitigation strategies are important, but they cannot eliminate the potential for exposure to COVID-19 or any other illness when in-person activities resume.

People with COVID-19 may show no signs or symptoms of illness, but they can spread the virus. Some people may be contagious before their symptoms occur. The fact is that someone with COVID-19 may pass the required health screenings and be allowed into program activities.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. If you are in this group, please ensure you have approval from your health care provider prior to resuming in-person Scouting activities.

Every member, volunteer and family must evaluate their unique circumstances and make an informed decision before attending in-person activities.

We hope this information will be helpful as you make that choice.

For updates, please monitor <https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus>

Before you gather:

- Consult** your council and chartered organization to understand community standards and protocols in place.
- Communicate** to all parents and youth that the Boy Scouts of America recommends that no one in the higher-risk category take part in person. Continue to engage virtually.
- Communicate** that anyone who feels sick must [stay home](#). If you become sick or develop symptoms, isolate yourself then go home and seek care.
- Educate and train** all participants on appropriate social distancing, [cleaning and disinfecting](#), [hand hygiene](#) and [respiratory \(cough or sneeze\) etiquette](#) before meeting for the first time. Periodically reinforce the behaviors as needed.
- Before attending**, upon arrival and at least daily for longer events, all participants [should be screened](#) for any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
 - **Cough**
 - **Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing**
 - **Chills**
 - **Repeated shaking with chills**
 - **Muscle pain**
 - **Headache**
 - **Sore throat**
 - **Loss of taste or smell**
 - **Diarrhea**
 - **Feeling feverish or having a temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit**
 - **Known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19**
- As appropriate**, participants should have [face coverings](#) available to wear when gathering or when in public areas or venues. Several coverings per person may be needed.
- Communicate** that those who take part in person should avoid contact with higher-risk individuals for 14 days after the event.

As you gather:

- Minimize group sizes.** Small groups of participants who stay together all day every day, remain [6 feet apart](#) and do not share objects are at the lowest risk. Think of a den or patrol that does not mix or gather with other dens or patrols, with supervision that stays with the small group. *Scouting's [Barriers to Abuse](#) always apply.*
- Stay local** to your geographic area and groups for unit activities. If you must travel, limit mixing with others along the way.
- Minimize mixing** with parents or siblings unless they are part of the unit activity. For example, the same parent picks up and drops off youth, and stays in the car. No guests or visitors who have not been through the pre-gathering protocols and screening should take part.
- Have hand sanitizer**, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available for use at meetings, activities and campouts.
- Minimize the use** of common areas and shared tools. If unavoidable, they should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between uses.
- Develop dining protocols** (including but not limited to):
 - No self-serve buffet meals or common water coolers.
 - Use of disposable utensils, napkins, cups and plates.
 - Clean and disinfect eating and cooking gear after each use.
- Develop tenting protocols** for the group:
 - Minimize use of fans or devices that stir the air.
 - Campers should sleep head-to-toe in bunks or cots spaced as far apart as possible.
 - Individual tents, hammocks and bivys may be considered.
- During program activities:**
 - Equipment that must be shared should be disinfected before and after each use.
 - Where possible, assign activity-related protective equipment for the duration of an event to a single individual (life jacket, gloves, harness).
 - Effective handwashing before and after each program area use.
- In case of an injury or illness**, promptly report the incident, including COVID-19 exposures. Utilize [Incident Reporting Resources](#), including COVID-19 instructions.

When you get home:

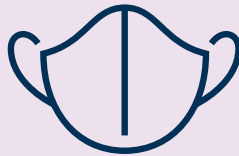
- Avoid contact** with higher-risk individuals for 14 days.
 - Monitor** for any signs of illness for 14 days, and
- Communicate** with your unit leadership should you develop symptoms.

Know your Ws!

Recuerde las iniciales PEL!

WEAR

a cloth covering over
your nose and mouth.

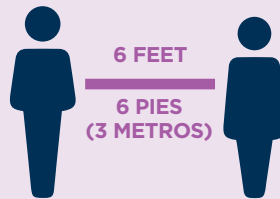


PÓNGASE

un protector de tela que
cubra su nariz y su boca.

WAIT

6 feet apart. Avoid
close contact.



ESPÉRESE

distanciándose 6 pies
(3 metros). Evita
contacto cercano.

WASH

your hands or
use hand sanitizer.



LÁVESE

las manos o usar
desinfectante
de manos.