Unit Meeting & Activity Guidelines (August 17th Update)

Over the last several months we have borne witness to an amazing amount of adaptation and creativity around delivering virtual Scouting programming to our youth and families. It has been humbling to see the passion and energy demonstrated by our Scouting leaders, families, and Scouts. It has been exciting to enter new avenues of engagement for Scouting through virtual programming and experiences. We are excited to share the opportunity for units to resume some limited in person activities based on the August 6th Public Health Order “Reopening Protocol for Youth Sports Leagues”. ¹ WLACC is providing guidance below for resuming limited in person activities for Scouting units. Please keep in mind that the rules set out below represent a combination of local law and common sense. It is important for all of us to be “obedient” and adhere to the rules below in order to keep our Scouts, Scouters, and families safe and make sure we are representing ourselves and our organization well within our local communities.

Current Los Angeles County Rules

The Current LA County Public Health Order listed above does allow for limited outdoor activities provided certain standards are met, including:

- Until further notice, all Scouting activities and meetings must take place outdoors. Meetings and activities are prohibited from taking place indoors.
- Unit Meetings and Activities are prohibited from taking place in a private residence. Meetings and Activities should take place in parks (if open/available), public spaces, or at Charter Organization properties with permission.
- Overnight camping is prohibited at this time. We hope to have updates and information about overnight camping opportunities in the coming weeks and months.
- Program will be delivered using the cohort method (think Den/Patrol). Cohorts must not exceed 15 youth and 3 adults (the exception being Lion & Tiger Den Programming where a one-to-one Adult Partner ratio is required). Once organized, modifications to cohorts should be limited to prevent potential transmission between individuals and families.
- Masking in Los Angeles County and California is required of all participants both youth and adults.
  - All youth, adults, family members and visitors are required to wear an appropriate face covering, that covers the nose and the mouth at all times, except while swimming, showering, actively eating/drinking. This applies to all adults, Scouts, and children 2 years of age and older (siblings).
- Physical distancing of six (6) feet between each participant is always required. Activities are limited to those that enable all youth and adults to maintain a physical distance of at

least six feet between each other, and an eight feet distance during times of heavy physical exertion.

- Screening is conducted before youth and adults may participate in activities. Checks must include a check-in concerning fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing and fever or chills, and whether the person has had contact with a person known or suspected to be infected with the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) within the last 14 days.

- Meetings and Activities will have an adult designated as the Health & Safety Monitor
  - The Health & Safety Monitor is someone who has familiarized themselves with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Order and is responsible to ensure that social distancing, masking, health screenings, and other guidelines are followed.

- Handwashing should take place after utilizing shared equipment and before and after activities. When a handwashing station is unavailable, hand sanitizer should be used.

- To the maximum extent practicable, Scouts are encouraged to bring their own equipment to activities and not share equipment. If equipment must be shared, it must be disinfected between use by different people to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread.

- Scouts, Adult Leaders, and all others are discouraged from making unnecessary physical contact with one another (for example, high-fives, handshakes, fist bumps) to limit the potential for disease to spread.

- Scout units that have access to indoor bathroom and shower facilities may access them for the purposes of engaging in hand hygiene, changing, showering, and utilizing the rest rooms. Stagger visits to the rest rooms to allow for physical distancing while using indoor restroom facilities.

Additional WLACC Rules to Resume Limited Activities

- Transportation will be limited to individuals and/or family groups traveling to and from meetings and activities. NO CARPOOLING UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

- Any registered youth or adult who tests positive for COVID after the resumption of limited in person meetings should confidentially notify Andrew Sisolak at WLACC immediately by contacting (818) 785-8700.
  - This is intended to assist the local council in notifying the health department of potential program related transmission as required by law.

Considerations for Unit Committees before Resuming Program

Be thoughtful and intentional about how you have the discussion regarding meetings and activities. Ensure there is robust discussion, proactive communication, and significant consensus building. Do not assume that the feelings of key leaders are mirrored by your charter partner, your families, or your Scouts. Just because you can meet physically may not mean that you should resume physical meetings.
• Has your Chartered Organization (not just the Chartered Org. Rep.) been notified of your intent to resume meetings and/or activities?
  o You should secure permission in writing (e-mail is fine) to resume meetings
• Where will your unit facilitate outdoor meetings and activities?
• Do the majority of your Scouting families wish to resume meeting and/or holding activities/outings?
  o Have you engaged them in a meaningful and interactive dialogue?
  o Have you acknowledged their concerns and shared details about how you will mitigate risk or alleviate their concerns?
  o What will you do to engage and serve families that may have circumstances preventing them or their Scouts from participating in meetings?
• Will the program delivery and experience of meeting physically be more positive than similar virtual programming?

FAQ

Q: How can Eagle projects be completed with the restrictions above in place?

A: Eagle Scout candidates may complete Outdoor projects utilizing family cohorts. All rules applying to meetings would apply to projects and family cohorts must follow all rules and safety guidelines. This means that projects involving members not of the same household are prohibited from taking place at a person’s home.

Eagle Scout candidates may complete Indoor projects under the following guidelines: Eagle Scout candidates will not be able to execute indoor projects in the traditional sense of having a group of non-family volunteers assemble at the same time and place to work on projects. Projects may be able to be completed by utilizing shifts of volunteers from individual family groups to eliminate all interactions where feasible. If interactions of non-family members is necessary for the INDOOR project to be completed, the project should be postponed. WLACC will work with Scouts approaching their 18th birthday to obtain an extension to complete their project. Scouts should proactively reach out to their District Advancement Chair regarding the necessary paperwork and process to obtain an extension. Scouts will need to demonstrate that they have continued to work on advancement and their project during their extension when possible.

Q: May Districts conduct in person activities and meetings including Eagle Scout Board of Reviews and Order of the Arrow Chapter Meetings?

A: Yes, provided that all guidelines listed for unit activities and meetings are followed. This would include being outdoors, cohort guidelines, masking, social distancing, etc. Eagle Scout candidates will be given the option for a virtual Board of Review should they have concerns about their safety or the safety of a family member.
Q: Units have suspended in-person activities since March 16, 2020 based on written direction from Council. When, and how will updated direction be distributed to units and their chartering organizations?

A: The Council leadership (Council President, Commissioner, and Scout Executive) will make announcements based upon consideration of the updated guidance from the State Department of Health and in consultation with the County of Los Angeles Department of Health. These announcements will be distributed via email, the council website, and the council Facebook page.

Q: Will small groups be allowed to go camping as of August 15, 2020 (e.g., the 15 youth plus 3 adults)?

A: We cannot predict the future. Small groups will NOT be allowed to go camping until reopening guidance is received from our State and County Health Departments which allows overnight youth camping. Reopening plans will be communicated as information becomes available.

Q: Can Scouts carpool if they wear masks during the car ride?

A: No. Current restrictions forbid persons outside of immediate family members to ride in the same car.

Q: What about BSA Part C Medical Forms? Many health offices are limiting services and parents are having issues obtaining this form.

A: Parts A & B are required for stays of less than 72 hours. As of 5/11/2020, BSA Accredited Council Camps and High Adventure Bases have been supplied a way to accept an extension of validity of the pre-participation exam (Part C). We expect camps and bases will publish their policies individually, so please direct your specific situation to the camp you plan to attend this summer. This option may not be available for all councils as it may conflict with states’ camping statutes or requirements. This option does not apply to any unit activity or programmatic requirements such as for SCUBA.

Information from 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 attending camp.

We also encourage anyone whose medical condition or history has changed significantly since their last physical exam to get approval from their health care provider prior to attending camp.

Q: When will the COVID-19 training be available for unit leaders?

A: The training is currently being developed by BSA National. We expect it to be finalized soon. Until then, a great resource is this restart Scouting checklist, [https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-693.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-693.pdf).
Q: Parents have paid for an entire year of Scouting, yet the Scouts are not getting the traditional program. How do we deal with this?

A: The Council has and will continue to operate and provide resources, advancement processing, training (online), roundtables, and merit badge programs all year. Unlike many other youth serving organizations, we are also refunding 100% of camping fees for events that have been cancelled, but we have not cancelled the Scouting program.

Q: Are we encouraging (or discouraging) electronic temperature checks at Scout activities?

A: Temperature checks are recommended as part of your pre-meeting/activity screening.