

Troop 1128: Resuming Outdoor Scouting Safely – Step 1

Introduction

While every family has a unique set of considerations in deciding whether to participate in Scout activities during the pandemic, we are developing a phased approach to restarting our Scouting program.

The guidelines that have come out thus far from the BSA, NCAC, CDC and the Virginia Department of Health focus on several key components for responsibly restarting Scouting activities:

1. Adequate and frequent health screening and monitoring
2. Social distancing and facial coverings
3. Vigilant hygiene practices
4. Keeping group sizes as small as possible

This document is an **evolving set of practices** that considers those key components along with everything we know today. New information and resources will likely come to light over the coming weeks that could further improve our plans. *If at any time, we feel that we need to suspend troop activities or go back a step, then we will make that call in connection with our sponsoring organization, Andrew Chapel UMC.*

As we forge ahead, we will do everything we reasonably can to protect Scouts and Scouters and the communities and families to whom they return after an outing or activity. However, ultimately, the decision to participate resides with Scout parents and individual Scouters. Each family will need to decide for itself when it feels comfortable participating in Scouting activities and is prepared to assume the risk of such participation. Scouts and Scouters will not be penalized for missing outdoor activities during this pandemic.

Health & Screening

Staying safe on outings begins with staying safe at home. We ask that all of our Scouts and Scouters be cautious about all contact outside the home in the 2-weeks prior to any outing.

Anybody who is ill must not participate in any troop activity or provide transportation to a troop activity.

All participants must complete a **COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire** and provide it to the lead ASM at the event location. At this time, all participants will have their temperature checked, and any participant with a temperature greater than 100.4° will not be allowed to participate. Upon the ASM's review of the Questionnaire, it shall be returned to the participant.

Parents/guardians who are dropping their Scout off must wait for this review and to be given the "all clear" before departing.

At any point, if a Scout or Scouter tests positive for COVID-19, or suspects they may have it, we request that they immediately report that information to 1128B Scoutmaster Steve

Englund, 1128G Scoutmaster Andre Hollis, Committee Chairman Richard Wolfe, or a troop Medical Form Coordinator (currently Roseann Alvarez). We will endeavor to notify promptly troop members who recently attended any troop events with the infected person. We will try to limit our disclosure of the name of the infected person to the troop's key adult leaders.

At all outings, all participants must:

1. Wear a facial covering over their mouth and nose at all times except eating or drinking
2. Maintain 6' distance at all times
3. Bring own hand sanitizer and use it as needed
4. Complete any necessary "pack checks" and affirm responsibility for own gear
5. Not share water bottles, snacks or gear
6. Properly label water bottles

Step 1 Protocols

No Indoor Activities, and no activities at Andrew Chapel. Outdoor activities shall be limited to 15 participants. Permitted outdoor activities shall include patrol day hikes, patrol meetings and service projects. No activities are permitted that would require a meal, involve tenting or an overnight trip.

Participants are to meet at the event location, not at Andrew Chapel. Permitted venues for activities will not exceed a 60 minute drive from Andrew Chapel. Families shall arrange their own transportation to the event location, and are strongly discouraged from sharing rides with anyone other than family members and others with whom they have regular contact outside Scouting. If a parent/guardian chooses to facilitate ride sharing with a non-family member, all in the vehicle must be healthy, not be in a high-risk group, and wear a facial covering in transit.

Scouts/Scouters shall pack their own snacks and water.

Patrol Leaders and PASM's are responsible for ensuring that patrol first aid kits include 2 disposable face masks, hand sanitizer and a CPR rescue mask. Patrol Leaders and PASM's shall brief all participants on appropriate social distancing, wearing masks over the mouth and nose, cleaning and disinfecting (if relevant), hand hygiene and cough and sneeze) etiquette before the activity begins.

Parents must be on call to recover Scouts, if necessary, in the event of an emergency. If a participant needs emergency care that requires breaking 6' distance, facial coverings shall be worn by both the injured party and any who assist the participant. Those who assist the injured party shall take care to ensure they clean their hands as soon as practical.

Upon return, all participants should avoid contact with higher-risk individuals for 14-days, monitor for any signs of illness for 14-days, and communicate with troop leadership if they develop symptoms.