

Troop 1128: Resuming Outdoor Scouting Safely – Step 3

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 two 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 meeting point for the event. At this time, all participants will have their temperature checked, and any participant with a temperature greater than 100.4°, obvious signs of illness or disqualifying responses to the Screening Questionnaire 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 also notify the BSA council of potential COVID-19 exposure at troop events. We will try to limit our disclosure of the name of the infected person to key adult leaders.

At all outings, all participants must:

1. Wear a facial covering over their mouth and nose at all times except when eating, drinking or in their own tent
2. Maintain at least a 6' distance as much as possible
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

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.

Step 3 Protocols

Indoor activities are permitted for groups not larger than 15. All participants shall wear face coverings and maintain 6' distance while inside. Andrew Chapel use shall only be permitted if Andrew Chapel reopens and approves such activities.

Outdoor activities shall be divided into smaller groups of no more than 15 participants. Permitted outdoor activities shall include all Step 1 and Step 2 activities (day activities for patrol-size groups, patrol-size overnight car camping trips and troop-wide day activities divided into small groups not to exceed 15 participants). In addition, permitted Phase 3 activities may include troop-wide overnight camping, including backpacking trips and troop-wide fundraiser events (provided that participants in troop-wide activities are divided into patrols or other smaller groups of no more than 15 participants with minimal interaction between groups). Each group must include an appropriate number of registered adult leaders consistent with normal BSA guidelines.

The event organizer may determine that participants will assemble locally prior to departing for the activity, but not at Andrew Chapel unless Andrew Chapel reopens and approves such activities. When assembling, all participants shall wear facial coverings. Ride sharing among willing participants is permitted; however, all riders and the driver must wear a facial covering in transit unless all in the car are family or those with whom they have regular contact outside Scouting. In the case of a troop-wide day activity with multiple patrols or other subgroups, those sharing a car should be from the same patrol or other subgroup. Permitted venues for activities will not exceed a 3-hour drive from Andrew Chapel.

In the case of overnight events, all Scouts/Scouters shall have their own tent (tent-sharing shall not be permitted). Tents shall only be used for sleeping and getting changed (Scouts may not gather in tents for any reason). Tents shall be pitched such that each tent shall be at least 6' away from any other tent. Scouters shall tent nearby but separately from Scouts for youth protection purposes, as usual.

In the case of events at which meals will be eaten, Scouts/Scouters shall pack their own mess kit. Event organizers may ask each participant to bring their own food (e.g., a bag lunch). In that case, there shall be no sharing of food. If event organizers plan meals, they shall arrange for simple backpacking-type meals that involve only boiling water for food preparation (e.g. a Mountain House freeze-dried dinner and instant oatmeal or bars for breakfast). All participants shall maintain 6' distance throughout meal preparation and eating. The cook shall wear gloves and cover face during meal preparation and serving. Cooking/serving gear and mess kits shall be cleaned and disinfected after each use. No self-serve buffet meals or common water coolers.

Participants shall wear masks, gaiter or bandana when in shared restrooms, wash hands and use all reasonable efforts to ensure 6' distance within the restroom at all times. No more than 2 persons from the troop shall be permitted in a shared restroom at one time.

All participants shall ensure they have two pair of disposable gloves, five individual disinfectant wipes per night and one extra facial covering packed in their gear.

Patrol Leaders and PAsMs are responsible for ensuring that patrol first aid kits include at least three pair of disposable gloves, three disposable face masks, three individual disinfectant wipes per night, hand sanitizer and a CPR rescue mask. Patrol Leaders and PAsMs 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.