

## Unit Meeting, Activity, & Camping Guidelines

*(Now including information from the Tennessee Pledge)*

The safety of our youth members, volunteer leaders, staff, and employees continue to be the most important part of the Great Smoky Mountain Council (GSMC) Scouting experience. Since the current phase of our operations has been in effect since August 7, GSMC would like to remind you of its policies pertaining to unit meetings, activities, and camping and share some additions.

These decisions were made after careful consideration of CDC, state, and local regulations and were driven with our youth members, volunteer leaders, staff, and employees' safety in mind:

1. All BSA Youth Protection guidelines are to be followed.
2. Your unit must follow your unit's local government's COVID-19 requirements, as well as state and national COVID-19 requirements.
3. To help promote safety during the ongoing COVID pandemic, the SAFE Restart Scouting Checklist provided by the National BSA must be used. Click [HERE](#) to read it.
4. In-person unit meetings may still occur with the approval of your Charter Organization's Executive Officer. The Chartered Organization's Executive Officer (EO) is typically not the same person as the Charter Organization Representative (COR). Charter Organization EOs are typically Pastors, Congregation Presidents, Civic Club Board Chairs, etc. The COR cannot give permission in lieu of the EO. If the Charter Organization does not allow for your Scouts to meet at their facility, and you wish to meet at an off-site location, you will still need permission from your Charter Organization's EO to do so.
5. If you are having challenges reaching your Charter Organization, please let us know.
6. Have all Scouts and volunteers fill out and sign the *Scouting COVID-19 Pledge* before allowing them to participate in any Scouting activity. This can be found at <https://www.easttntscouts.org/covid/>. This is the August 7 version and you only need one copy per Scout or Scouter.
7. All COVID-19 precautions must be strictly followed including: for indoors - limit capacity to no more than 50 percent of venue occupancy or less, physical distancing of 6 feet apart (farther is safer), face mask worn when safe distancing is not possible, cleaning surfaces, and higher-risk individuals are strongly encouraged to stay at home. If you are in Knox County, an indoor meeting space must have 360 square feet for ten (10) persons age twelve (12) years or older.
8. At your first unit meeting back, share with your Scouts, parents, and leaders this safety moment on communicable disease - <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/communicable-disease-prevention/>
9. Maintain attendance records to allow for contact tracing. If anyone at a Scout meeting or activity is positive for COVID-19 or has symptoms and have been in physical contact with Scouts, they must report it to their unit. The unit must report the incident to GSMC.

10. Screen all attendees at unit meetings for COVID-19 symptoms with the following questions:
  - Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
  - Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath or sore throat?
  - Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
  - Loss of smell or taste?
  - Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?
11. Temperature screen all attendees not sure of their status using a no-touch thermometer
  - Temp should not exceed 100.4 degrees
12. Direct attendees showing symptoms to leave immediately
  - Advise them to seek medical attention
  - Maintain confidentiality of health information, unless demanded for tracking contacts
13. Unit leaders, committee members, and parents are asked to “Zoom” together to brainstorm ideas that could help keep the Scouts engaged over the summer and help them continue to advance while having fun in the outdoors. The unit should determine and decide what guidelines the unit will need to impose before participation is allowed.
14. Outdoor camping may resume with the approval of your Charter Organization’s Executive Officer.
15. Here is a pre-event medical screening that you can use - <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/pre-event-medical-screening/>
16. These additional guidelines should be followed for activities and camping:
  - a. All BSA Youth Protection guidelines are to be followed.
  - b. Check with the park or recreation area in advance to prepare safely.
  - c. When choosing a location for your unit’s activity or campout, remember “Choose camping sites that are close to your home.” This simple phrase shortens the time traveling in close proximity. Scouts and adults should wear masks in the vehicle and reduce the number of individuals in each vehicle.
  - d. Single tent camping must be enforced unless Scouts from the same household camp together, i.e. parents and their immediate children for Cub Scouts or same-gender siblings in our older programs.
  - e. If the unit is not using tents (i.e. hammocks), Scouts and adults must align mats or hammocks so that Scouts and adults sleep head-to-toe at least 6 feet apart.
  - f. Space seating at least 6 feet apart.
  - g. All Scouts and adults should wash their hands with soap and water regularly for at least 20 seconds. It should be highly monitored before each meal. The wearing of gloves is not a recommended way for preventing the spread of COVID-19 in community settings. The use of gloves does not replace handwashing.

- h. If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces. Avoid touching your face. Sneeze or cough into a tissue or the inside of your elbow. Dispose of tissues after a single use.
  - i. 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, hot water and then rinsed in bleach. Individuals should wash their hands after removing their gloves or after directly handling used food service items.
  - j. Limit self-service options including food and beverage snacks and the like
  - k. Regularly disinfect frequently used items and surfaces using soap and water or EPA-registered household disinfectants (including bleach and cleaners containing at least 70% alcohol). A list can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>. Cleaning products should not be used near children, and adults should ensure that there is adequate ventilation when using these products to prevent children or themselves from inhaling toxic fumes.
  - l. Do not allow items to be shared.
  - m. Encourage Scouts and adults to avoid placing toothbrushes or toiletries directly on counter surfaces.
  - n. Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone sick to their home or to a healthcare facility in an emergency.
  - o. People who feel sick or have been told to isolate/quarantine must stay home.
17. GSMC units have been able to resume camping at Camp Buck Toms and Camp Pellissippi since mid-June with these conditions:
- a. A waiver must be signed by each Scout's parent/guardian and each adult.
  - b. An empty campsite must be between each unit.
  - c. Units may not share shower houses / restrooms.
  - d. Units must clean shower houses / restrooms upon arrival and before leaving.
  - e. While single tent camping is preferred during this time, sleeping in Adirondacks is limited to 2 individuals per 4-person Adirondack. 8-person Adirondacks are limited to 4 individuals as long as they are sleeping head-to-toe at least 6 feet apart and alternating top bunk to bottom bunk between each individual.
  - f. The GaGa ball pit, volleyball court, and basketball court are closed.
  - g. All aquatics activities require a life jacket or PFD. This includes swimming.
18. Units are encouraged to implement other safety guidelines as they see fit and do not violate any BSA Youth Protection guidelines.

19. GSMC is committed to the safety of youth members, volunteer leaders, staff, and employees. Serious violations of these guidelines or any behavior that put a youth's safety at risk must be reported to the Scout executive.

We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we move towards a return to normalcy. The Great Smoky Mountain Council will continue to monitor information regarding COVID-19 and will put out updated material as we learn more.

If you have additional practices that work for your unit or find things that don't work while using these guidelines, please let us know so that we may share that information with other units. Please direct your feedback to [Mark.Janeway@scouting.org](mailto:Mark.Janeway@scouting.org).

For more information regarding our council's policies during this time, please visit our website at [www.EastTNScouts.org/covid](http://www.EastTNScouts.org/covid). Be safe! Stay healthy and have fun!