

RESTARTING SCOUTING

General Requirements



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
OHIO RIVER VALLEY COUNCIL OF BOY SCOUTS



RESTARTING SCOUTING

The health and safety of our Scouts, Leaders, and Families is one of our highest priorities as we prepare to restart in-person Scouting. Following these steps will help each of us enjoy a safe and healthy Scouting experience during these challenging times.

ALL SCOUTING FAMILIES AND LEADERS ARE ADVISED TO **DOWNLOAD AND READ THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS AND PROGRAM RE-ENTRY REQUIREMENTS** FOR RESTARTING SCOUTING.

STEP
1

STEP
2

ALL PARTICIPATING YOUTH AND ADULT MEMBERS MUST COMPLETE THE **YOUTH OR ADULT RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY FORM**. EACH PARTICIPANT MUST ALSO COMPLETE THE **ANNUAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL RECORD (PART A & B)**

ANY MEMBER IN THE VULNERABLE CLASS OR OVER 60 YEARS OF AGE IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE **SUPPLEMENTAL MEDICAL PERMISSION FORM** SIGNED BY A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.

STEP
3

STEP
4

IN THE EVENT OF SICKNESS OR ACCIDENT DURING A UNIT, DISTRICT, OR COUNCIL EVENT, UNITS OR EVENT STAFF ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT AN **INCIDENT REPORT**.

REGISTERED AND NON-REGISTERED ADULTS PROVIDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE TO COUNCIL PROPERTIES ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE **VOLUNTEER SERVICES AGREEMENT FORM**.

STEP
5

PROGRAM RE-ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

As of July 1, 2020

In an effort to mitigate the health risk of spreading Coronavirus to our volunteers, staff and adult and youth members, the Ohio River Valley Council is providing the following guidelines for implementation by units, unit leaders, and district and council volunteers.

While these recommendations are intended to facilitate risk mitigation, every participant in Scouting activities must be aware that the Coronavirus is very contagious and participation in any activity can put each participant and others at some risk of exposure to the Coronavirus.

Please remember that exposure to coronavirus could be asymptomatic. A person who becomes infected with the Coronavirus may be an asymptomatic carrier and can infect others even if not displaying any symptoms of the Coronavirus. Consequently, **IT IS CRITICAL THAT GOOD HEALTH AND SAFETY PRACTICES BE FOLLOWED IN ALL SITUATIONS.** Accordingly:

- 1. Before resuming any in-person Scouting activities, each unit should check with its charter partner to ensure it approves of the activities.** Some charter partners are not opening their facilities for meetings or have imposed additional restrictions on groups meeting. Each unit must respect its charter partner's directions and must follow all applicable rules and guidance of its charter partner.
- 2. Currently, the Ohio River Valley Council will be open by reservation only for in-person scouting activities solely for (a) programs hosted by districts, and/or the council (b) unit level activities, service projects, fundraising, and/or meetings.** Please continue to check the Council's website and follow the Council's FB page for details on all of these programs as they are announced. The Council expects to announce additional programs in the coming weeks as it continues to work toward Fall activities. We all need to be mindful of how future conditions and States of Ohio and WV orders and guidance will impact the Council's program.
- 3. Prior to participating in any district, council or unit level in-person activities, service projects, and/or meetings individuals at higher risk of severe illness due to pulmonary or other conditions outlined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and adults over age 60, (a) must consult with their physician and (b) have their physician complete and sign the Council's Supplemental Medical Permission Form.**
- Each unit should keep a detailed roster of the participants at every meeting and activity, so it is prepared in the event that contact tracing is required. Each unit must also retain a current Part A & B Medical form of each participant for this purpose. When attending any district, or council level in-person activities, each individual participant will be required to provide a copy of a current Part A & B Medical form and the unit, district, or council will be required to retain the copy so provided.
- All participants should review their current health prior to participating in any Scouting activity. Individuals with temperatures higher than 100.4 and/or other symptoms of COVID-19 should not participate in any Scouting activity.
- All individuals who believe they may have been exposed to Coronavirus must quarantine for 14-days prior to participating in any district or council or unit level activities, service projects or meetings.
- Outdoor meetings are highly encouraged subject to applicable social distancing and other guidelines.
- Groups are encouraged to maintain social distancing of six feet or more, and to wear face masks when indoors and at other times when practical to do so or when required by applicable guidelines.
- Group meeting size must comply with applicable state guidelines. While the Council recognizes that there are Troops, Packs and Crews with large numbers of youth members, we believe that so limiting the number of participants will allow for appropriate social distancing and efficient contact tracing in the event of potential exposure. Activities done in small groups (den meetings and patrol meetings) are preferable.
- Transportation to and from activities should be made within family units. Carpooling should be discouraged.
- Handwashing and sanitization of shared supplies or equipment must be done between each use of shared supplies or equipment—following CDC recommendations. A copy of the CDC recommendations can be found on the orvc-bsa.org/reopening website.
- Sleeping arrangements on camping trips should be limited to one person per tent, unless they are family.
- Six-foot distancing should be maintained when practical during hikes, bike rides, and other "follow the leader" style activities.
- All local, state, and federal safety guidelines should be followed. Please review guidelines for not only your unit's meeting location, but the location of any camping/activity destination.

15. All BSA Youth Protection guidelines must be adhered to at all times.

16. It is recommended that every unit share these guidelines with each of its members and post these guidelines at and during all meetings and activities. **In addition, every Unit should obtain written permission from parents stating that they have reviewed these guidelines and consent to having their child participate in Scouting activities. Every unit must keep such written permissions with the unit health forms.**

17. Before allowing any person to participate in any district, division or council or unit level activities, service projects or meetings, EACH UNIT MUST OBTAIN FROM EACH OF ITS PARTICIPANTS THE DOCUMENTS THAT FOLLOW:

Youth participant:

- Current Part A & B Health Form
- Youth Member Release and Waiver of Liability
- For vulnerable health classes only: Supplement Medical Permission form

Adult participant:

- Current Part A & B Health Form
- Adult Member Release and Waiver of Liability
- For vulnerable health classes only: Supplemental Medical Permission form
- For those over 60 only: Supplemental Medical Permission form
- For any non-member adults working routinely with properties or events: Volunteer Services Agreement

18. *All required and supporting documents can be downloaded from orvc-bsa.org/reopening *****

Fort Steuben Scout Reservation (FSSR) and Sandscrest camping facilities will be open for campsite, assigned shower house and latrine use only starting July 15, 2020. Building use guidelines will be forthcoming later this Summer. *Any and all use is by advance reservation only.*

Finally, as representatives of Scouting, it is important that we demonstrate the principles of the Scout Oath and Law now more than ever before. As restrictions begin to lift, individuals within your Scout unit may have varying levels of comfort or anxiety. It is our responsibility to be kind while being helpful and friendly and to demonstrate empathy and respect to everyone, even if they have beliefs different than ours. As we move forward, let's be cheerful and brave while showing trustworthy obedience to the rules, regulations and guidance of our State, Counties, Cities and Chartered Organizations.

Stay Safe and Keep Scouting!





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.