

## **NCAC Guidance on Indoor and Outdoor Scouting Activities for Winter 2021 In Light of the Ongoing COVID-19 Virus Pandemic**

### **Fundamentals**

- We are guided by four key principles for curbing COVID-19 virus transmission: wear a mask; physically distance; wash your hands frequently; and, do not attend an event if you have had any of the COVID symptoms in the past 14 days.
- The Council is responsible for providing a safe and healthy environment for youth and adults at:
  - all Council and District sponsored Scouting events wherever they are held and
  - Council, District and Unit Scouting events held on a council property.
- The unit Key Three, Chartering Organization and Scout parents are responsible for providing a safe and healthy environment for all Scouting participants for Unit level activities.
- All youth and adult Scouting activities will be conducted in accordance with the local government virus precaution restrictions both in the location where the unit is chartered, in the location of the activity, and in locations while in transit to the event, in addition to guidance within the Council approved Virus Risk Management Plan (VRMP).
- Events and activities will be conducted as much as possible by virtual means, since this is much more effective in preventing virus transmission than face-to-face interaction and is the Council's preferred method of interaction when possible
  - Any in-person adult or youth Scouting activity of more than 10 participants will be conducted with participants separated into Den/Patrol/Crew-size cohorts or bubbles of 10 people or less that do not physically interact during the activity.

### **The Situation**

- All the governments within our council area are reporting a growing number of virus cases, indicating the infection rate is increasing. We anticipate that as more activities move indoors during the winter, the infection rate will not decrease.
- The Council has successfully conducted a number of outdoor and indoor activities over the summer and fall with Virus Risk Management Plans in place. We have learned from and improved our ability to safely conduct events from these experiences.
- We recognize the need to balance acceptable risk versus absolute safety from the virus in the coming months. For instance, the council is already planning to conduct our summer camps in 2021 with Virus Risk Management Plans (VRMP) in place.
- With this in mind, the Council is establishing an approval process to permit a number of Council and District level events to be conducted this winter with an approved VRMP tailored to the event.

## **Virus Risk Management Resources**

- All Scouting activities in the Council are to follow current BSA safety guidelines, including those addressing COVID-19:
  - <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-693.pdf>
  - the Model Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist No. 680-057 and
  - Incident Reporting requirements, to include supplemental guidelines for COVID-19
  - NCAC additional guidance for relaunching in-person events at: <https://weownadventure.com/guidance-on-resuming-in-person-scouting-activities/>
- Until each District develops its own VRMP approval process, all VRMPs should be submitted to Tom McKeever, Chairman of the Council Risk Management Committee, at [tcmk@verizon.net](mailto:tcmk@verizon.net).

## **Guidance for January – March, 2021**

### **Units**

- May conduct activities approved by the unit Key Three and Chartering Organization, consistent with local government virus transmission restrictions. Multiple units may agree to conduct a joint event that does not involve council or district representatives and is not on a council property.
- May use the Camp Snyder Dining Hall for meetings and events, provided they properly disinfect the facility after use. Meetings in the Camp Snyder Dining Hall will be limited to 100 participants to ensure adequate physical distancing.
- May camp at Camp Snyder as long as each Patrol has a separate campsite and the Patrols do not interact. The cabins and cottage will not be available. Campers will be responsible for their own programming.

### **Districts**

- May not conduct day or overnight events with multiple units together in one location, like Winter Camporees, Pinewood Derbies or Klondike Derbies.
- May conduct staggered arrival/departure day outdoor or indoor events, in which there is a time separation between each Den/Patrol/Crew arriving and departing to avoid overlap congestion, and adequate time to disinfect shared spaces. Units may only participate as separate Patrols or Dens; no events may include an overnight stay. The event may be conducted on a council property. The District must submit and gain approval for a VRMP.
- May conduct day or overnight adult training in multiple Patrol size groups (bubbles or cohorts of 10 people or less), to include use of council properties. If the training is conducted at Camp Snyder, the cabins and cottage will not be available. The District must submit and gain approval for a VRMP.

### **Council**

- May conduct youth and adult training activities like NYLT, Order of the Arrow Ordeals or Wood Badge on or off council property by means of multiple Patrol size groups

(bubbles or cohorts of 10 people or less), with an approved VRMP. Each bubble or cohort will camp separately and will not interact with each other. If the training is conducted at Camp Snyder, the cabins and cottage will not be available.

- Encourages individual Family and Den/Patrol/Crew camping on selected Winter weekends at Camp Snyder. Units may camp as long as each Patrol has a separate campsite and the Patrols do not interact. The cabins and cottage will not be available. Campers will be responsible for their own programming.