

National Statement on COVID-19

May 7, 2020

As always, the safety of our Scouts, volunteers, employees and communities is our top priority.

Our response to the coronavirus pandemic continues to be informed by the guidance of official bodies, including [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), whose framework for mitigation for community groups is based on the level of community transmission of COVID-19, as well as the latest [White House guidelines](#).

As the national response to the coronavirus pandemic shifts to a state-focused and phased approach, the Boy Scouts of America is advising local councils to consult with their local and state health departments, as well as local chartered partners, in order to implement the appropriate protocols to help keep our members, volunteers, and employees safe.

We are taking similar steps as a national organization as we continue to evaluate the current environment with the best interests of our members, volunteers, and employees in mind. We are currently reviewing critical events that are scheduled to take place within the next six weeks. We will continue to update impacted groups about event decisions as they are made.

We thank you for helping meet the needs of our communities throughout these difficult times.

COVID-19 FAQ

UPDATED 5/14/20 - The most recent updates are indicated by a diamond in front of the question.

In-Person Unit Activities

◆ **Q: Should we hold in-person Scouting meetings, outings, or activities?**

With safety in mind and based on guidance from national health officials, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is strongly advising that in-person meetings, activities, events and gatherings be conducted only within the guidelines outlined by your state and local health department and other local officials, as well as under the direction of your local BSA council and chartered organization. This applies to youth and adults.

◆ **Q: If meeting locations are open, can units meet or do other in-person activities?**

Councils make the determination, working closely with their council health supervisor and local health department, about when units can conduct in-person meetings and activities again. If the unit's local council is allowing in-person activities but has restrictions in place (e.g., no more than 10, social distancing of 6 ft. etc.), the unit must meet and abide by those restrictions – even if the unit is traveling out of council/state.

◆ Q: What do we do about Scouts' fundraising activities?

Fundraising activities may be held if those activities are conducted within guidelines outlined by your state and local health department and other local officials and under the direction of your local BSA council and chartered organization. This applies to youth and adults. If fundraising activities can be facilitated using digital methods while still adhering to applicable rules, then those activities may continue.

◆ Q: What is BSA's policy on social distancing in a tenting environment when camping?

Camping should only take place in accordance with guidelines outlined by your state and local health department and other local officials, as well as under the direction of your local BSA council and chartered organization. There is no formal national policy on social distancing in tents, just as there is no prohibition on tenting alone if logistics can accommodate that request. As always, all BSA youth protection policies must be followed.

◆ Q: What are the youth protection guidelines if I am using a commercial video conferencing platform that allows for breakout rooms?

All breakout rooms for youth must have at least one registered adult and either another registered adult or a parent/legal guardian of a participating Scout.

Q: What are the refund policies if I have already paid for an event that has been cancelled?

Event organizers typically set refund or cancellation policies. Please reach out directly to those organizers. In the case of attendance at a national high adventure base, contact them directly about your crew.