Guidance Regarding COVID-19 for Scouting Events

Latest Council Guidance Concerning COVID-19
Mayflower Council, in addition to other communications, will update this web page with the additional recommendations as new information becomes available.

April 24 Update

Dear Scouting Family:

We hope that you remain safe and well during these unusual times. Like you, we are carefully monitoring the impact COVID-19 has on our communities and the guidance from our public officials, especially mandatory closure dates. For the safety of our Scouts, Scouters and community, we are extending our closures through May 31.

This means all in-person Scouting activities of any type remain prohibited through May 31. We have previously communicated that our guidance supersedes all other Scouting guidance, including that from the National Council Boy Scouts of America. Should any guidance from your chartered organization or your local health department be more restrictive, please also follow those restrictions.

We are inspired by our Scouting families for their determination to continue Scouting during these challenging times. Whether it is virtual meetings and activities or making cheerful cards for the elderly in nursing homes, Scouting continues to thrive across the communities in our council. Our Scouting at Home page has support for all our programs. These activities will help Scouts earn our new Scouting at Home Award patch, which you can learn more about here. We’d love to hear any ideas or resources you have, please share them with
us at scoutingathome@mayflowerbsa.org or on our Facebook page.

We are hosting a plethora of virtual meetings, events and activities to keep our Scouts active. For our Scouts BSA members we have launched virtual merit badges, beginning in May we will offer our Cub Scouts weekly den meetings, for our entire Scouting family we’re hosting our second virtual campfire as well as a Camping At Home Challenge, and we’re excited about the National Camp-in on May 2.

Our teams at Camp Resolute, Adventure Day Camp and Camp Squanto are excited to welcome you this summer and we anticipate a fantastic experience. There is no risk for families and units of losing money by signing up for Mayflower Camps now. In the event that camp does not open or has a shortened season due to COVID-19 and your troop or campers are unable to attend during your scheduled time, all camp fees paid will be refunded. Read more about summer camp here.

We are all learning new ways to do Scouting and are succeeding. In many ways, this crisis has brought all of us closer together even from a distance. For over a century, Scouting has been all about being prepared. In a sense, we have been preparing for times like these for over 110 years. Our Scout motto of “Be Prepared” tells us that we are ready for this challenge.

Thank you for all that you do for Scouting.

Yours in Scouting,

Mike Rotar, Council President
Josh Paulin, Council Commissioner
Bryan Feather, Scout Executive

April 16 Update On Summer Camp Operations
Message from our camp directors

March 26 Update (Click date to view)
We hope this letter finds you and your family well during these unprecedented times. Everyone has spent the last several days and weeks learning about COVID-19 (coronavirus) and how it’s affecting our community. Families are adjusting to stay-at-home advisories and coping with school closures.

The Mayflower Council priority is to keep our Scouts, volunteers, staff, and their families safe as well as demonstrate good citizenship in our communities by considering the needs of those around us.

As the threat of COVID-19 increases, most states, local governments, and school districts have either issued or extended stay-at-home advisories. As a result, we are extending the stoppage of all Council, district and unit face-to-face Scout activities, face-to-face meetings, as well as Camps and Council Service Center closures through April 30. As a reminder:

- **All face-to-face Scouting activities are canceled effective immediately through April 30.** This includes unit meetings (including patrol and den meetings), campouts, activities, trips, Pinewood Derbies, Blue and Gold Dinners, in-person fundraisers, service projects, Court of Honors (including for Eagle Scouts), etc. Please continue to work with your Scouts via digital and electronic methods whenever possible.
- **All face-to-face council-level and district-level events and meetings are canceled through April 30.** This includes Roundtable, training events and committee meetings. Please use all digital and electronic means available to conduct your meetings.
- **All Council Camps are closed through April 30.**
- **The Council Service Centers are closed through April 30.** Our staff will be working remotely and respond to all calls, emails and postal mail.

This is most certainly a fluid situation. We will continue to
align with best practices and policies set forth by state and local governments, municipalities, and schools. In the future, restrictions may be reduced or lifted within areas of the council thereby restoring Scout activities, face-to-face meetings, and the reopening of council service centers and camps in that area. Should changes to closures be warranted, we will promptly communicate with you.

We have been working to identify and encourage opportunities for Scouts to continue meeting with their units virtually, learn new skills, earn merit badges and advancements, and – most importantly – to do their part in giving back to their communities. We wanted to share with you some resources we’ve gathered that you might find helpful while planning activities at home for your families and staying up-to-date with Scouting during this pandemic. Click here for our most current list of resources.

Together, we can help flatten the curve of this rapidly spreading virus and keep everyone safe. Stay positive, have faith, and know the health and well-being of our Scouts, volunteers, staff, and their families are our number one priority!

Take care and be well,

Mike Rotar
Council President

Josh Paulin
Council Commissioner

Bryan Feather
Scout Executive

March 12 Update (Click date to view)
As we informed you in our email on March 9th, we have been monitoring the situation regarding the COVID-19 “Coronavirus”. Since then, the situation has worsened: the World Health
Organization has upgraded the virus to pandemic level and Governor Charlie Baker has declared a state of emergency. Therefore, **effective immediately, we are suspending all council and district in-person group meetings, trainings, activities, events, etc. through April 7.** We ask districts and committees to conduct their work virtually where possible to help carry on the important work of service to our youth.

**We recommend that individual units suspend in-person meetings and activities, and to leverage technology to deliver the program to our youth during this time.** While the majority of youth are at low risk from this illness, limiting group exposure can help to slow the spread of COVID-19 to at-risk members of our community. Community service comes in many forms. This course of action ensures that we do our part to protect others in our community-at-large and is in keeping with the values embodied in the Scout Oath and Law.

We encourage you to take standard precautions outlined by the CDC, including hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and staying home if you are ill. Please visit this page for additional information: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

For the latest information, please refer to our website. This includes a list of postponed or rescheduled events, and links to recommendations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

As always, we will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed.

Thank you for your understanding,

Mike Rotar
Council President

Josh Paulin
Council Commissioner
March 8 Update

Click here to read the Mayflower Council leadership’s update on Scouting and COVID-19.

Scouting at Home

Even with schools closed and many Scouting events on pause, there’s still opportunities to keep on Scouting! Click here for some ideas.

Council & District Event Status

The following is a list of upcoming council and district events and their status. Future events will be evaluated on an ongoing basis and may be postponed or canceled by their committee or council leadership if deemed to be in violation of health department recommendations and pose a high risk to participants.

Notifications will be sent to committees and participants if there is a change in status.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Until May 4</td>
<td>Camp Squanto, Camp Resolute, Nobscot Scout Reservation</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>Sachem District Commissioners</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>Youth Protection Training</td>
<td>Cancelled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>Sachem District Eagle Board</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>Post Road District Commissioners</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>Post Road District Committee</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>Headwaters District Commissioners</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>Headwaters District Committee</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>Tantamous Lodge Spring Fellowship</td>
<td>Cancelled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Status</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 25-26</td>
<td>Museum Of Science</td>
<td>Cancelled</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 25-26</td>
<td>Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation</td>
<td>Cancelled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>Sachem District Pinewood Derby</td>
<td>Cancelled</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>Camp Resolute and Adventure Day Camp Open House</td>
<td>Postponed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>Red Cross First Aid</td>
<td>Cancelled</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>Headwaters District Eagle Board</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Cub Scout Leader Training Festival</td>
<td>Cancelled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2-3</td>
<td>Wilderness and Remote First Aid</td>
<td>Cancelled</td>
</tr>
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**Refund Policy**

For all Scouting program and training events postponed or cancelled by the council, a refund will be provided. These refunds will be processed automatically, you do not need to request these refunds. For those who choose not to participate in an event, the standard refund policy applies.

**Summer Programs**

Currently, all summer programming – day camps, summer camps, etc. – will continue as planned. All payments and reservation deadlines remain the same. We can’t wait to see you at camp!

**April 16 Update on Summer Camp Operations**

**Council Facilities**

At this time, the Marlborough & Canton Scout Service Centers are closed to the public. All of our council staff are working remotely and all staff will remain available via telephone, email and video chat.

Our council camping facilities (Nobscot, Resolute & Squanto) will be closed through May 31. While our camps are closed, our properties staff will be expanding efforts to keep our camps safe and healthy. They will be using hospital-grade disinfectant throughout the facilities, including all...
mattresses, bathrooms, cabins and public spaces. Each camp will be ready to welcome Scouts back in April. If you have an existing reservation, we will issue your unit a refund for fees paid.

Scout Shops
All New England Scout Shops are closed and will remain closed until further notice. During this time that Scout Shops are closed and a leader needs to purchase rank advancement items, please use the following steps:

Unit Leader will email in their Scoutbook Advancement report to NDCSupply.Orders@scouting.org

Please include contact phone number so that the customer service team member can contact for payment information.

Customer service rep will contact unit leader for credit card information, ship to and bill to address, and verify the correct council along with the actual advancement needed.

Unit-Level Activities
The Mayflower Council recommends that individual units suspend in-person meetings and activities, and to leverage technology to deliver the program to our youth during this time. All units should comply with their charter organization’s policy on meetings and gatherings regarding unit-level activities. Our Scout’s safety should be our number one priority. Please utilize guidance provided by your local authorities, school districts, and chartering organizations in determining whether to cancel or postpone your events.

What to Do if You Think You’re Sick
If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and may have had contact with a person with COVID-19 or recently traveled to countries with apparent community spread, call your health care provider or local public health department first before seeking medical care so that appropriate precautions can be
taken. Do not attend any Scouting meeting, event or activity.

**Massachusetts Department of Public Health**
The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is working closely with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide updated information about the novel coronavirus outbreak. Visit their website for the most up to date information.

**BSA Polices to Prevent the Spread of Illness**
The Boy Scouts of America continues to have policies and procedures in place that help protect participants from contracting an illness at large Scouting events. These include the Annual Health and Medical Record and the Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist.

**Everyday Preventive Measures**
Even with those important policies in place, it is critical that we all take these everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases:

- **Stay home when you feel sick.**
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, and wash your hands before and after doing so.
- **Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.** If you don’t have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve/elbow, not your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Do not share personal items such as cups, water bottles, eating utensils, etc.
- Avoid shaking hands.
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.** If soap and water are not readily available,
use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

If you have a fever, cough, or other symptoms associated with COVID-19, or if you believe you may have been exposed to COVID-19, you should isolate and not attend any Scouting events. People who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately.