



Mayflower Council

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

RECOMMENDATIONS DESIGNED TO
MITIGATE RISK AT SCOUTING ACTIVITIES

THE SAFETY OF OUR SCOUTS, VOLUNTEERS,
EMPLOYEES AND COMMUNITIES
IS OUR TOP PRIORITY.

If it is not practical to meet these minimal protocols,
do not restart in-person activities.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
MAYFLOWER COUNCIL

Program Reopening Guidelines

September 23, 2021

In an effort to mitigate the health risk of spreading COVID-19 to our volunteers, staff, and Scouts, the Mayflower Council is providing the following guidelines.

These recommendations are designed to mitigate risk, but all participants need to be aware that any activity puts them at some risk of exposure.

Please remember that some who are exposed to COVID-19 could be asymptomatic. If a person becomes infected, they may become asymptomatic carriers and could infect other people unknowingly.

Consequently, it is critical that good health and safety practices be followed in all situations. Accordingly effective immediately:

- **Before resuming any meetings or activities, check with your charter organization to ensure they approve.** Some charter organizations are not opening their facilities for meetings or have imposed additional restrictions on group meetings and activities. Rules or guidance from your charter organization must be followed. Please respect their wishes.
- Vaccines are strongly recommended for all who are eligible.
- Individuals at higher risk of severe illness (older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions) should consult their physician prior to participation in any group activities.
- All participants should review their current health prior to participating in any activity. Individuals with temperatures higher than 100.0 and other symptoms of COVID-19 should not participate.
- All units must keep a detailed roster of participants for all meetings and activities, so they are prepared in the event that contact tracing is required.
- All individuals who believe they may have been exposed to COVID-19 must quarantine for 14-days prior to participation in any Scouting activity.
- Outdoor meetings are highly encouraged.
- Social distancing, of six feet, should be kept between yourself and other people who are not from your household.
- When appropriate, we encourage you to continue virtual gatherings, utilizing conference calls or online video conferencing.
- Transportation to and from activities should be made within family units. Should a unit decide to permit carpooling to and from Scouting activities, the following best practices are recommended, based on guidelines from the CDC and Commonwealth of Massachusetts:
 - Youth protection guidelines must always be followed.
 - Any youth who will be traveling in a vehicle with multiple individuals must have their parent's/guardian's written permission. Any adult who will be traveling in a vehicle with multiple individuals – including the driver – must give their consent.
 - Each passenger in the vehicle must wear a mask covering their nose and mouth at all times while inside the vehicle. Cover coughs and sneezes. When outside of the vehicle, individuals should maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from one another.

- To increase air circulation, it is best to open windows or set the air ventilation/air conditioning on non-recirculation mode.
- Occupants should refrain from eating or drinking while in the vehicle to ensure mask use at all times. Plan to eat and drink outside of the vehicle when you are not near other people.
- Occupants should stay in the same group/vehicle for all portions of the trip, including return trip.
- For trips longer than 1 hour, every effort should be made to leave open seats between second (and third) row passengers.
- Use proper hand hygiene. Hands should be washed before and after the trip. Hand sanitizer should be used where proper hand washing is not possible. High touch areas inside and outside of the vehicle (door handles, seat belts, etc.) should be disinfected before and after each trip.
- Unit leaders should maintain a list of passengers in each vehicle for at least 30 days after a trip, to facilitate contact tracing.
- Each Scout and adult, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a face covering at indoor meetings, events and activities. Face coverings are not required at outdoor Scouting meetings, events or activities.
- On campouts, we recommend that if Scouts sleep more than one per tent, they sleep head to toe. Separate tenting arrangements must be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth. In Cub Scouting, parents and guardians may share a tent with their family. In all other programs, youth and adults tent separately.
- Handwashing and sanitation of shared supplies must be done between use.
- Families/siblings do not need to maintain social distancing for transportation, sleeping, or meetings.
- Six foot social distancing should be maintained when practical during hikes, bike rides, and other follow the leader activities.
- No shared food or drink, for example no buffet service or family style. If someone from the unit is cooking then that person needs to plate the food for each participant. We recommend individually packaged condiments and anything you can purchase individually packaged.
- 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.
- Ensure all Boy Scouts of America Youth Protection guidelines are adhered to.
- It is recommended that these guidelines be shared with each member of your unit and posted during all meetings and activities. Units should obtain written permission from parents stating that they have reviewed these guidelines and consent to having their child participate in Scouting activities. Keep these permissions with the unit health forms.

Finally, as Scouts, it is important that we demonstrate the principles of the Scout 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 demonstrate empathy and respect to everyone, even if they have beliefs different from ours. As we move forward let's be cheerful and brave while showing obedience to the rules, regulations and guidance of the Commonwealth, Council, chartered organizations and cities/towns.

