



2020 Unit Operations Guidelines

Guidelines for Unit Meetings and Activities:

1. We continue to encourage virtual meetings. Many units have developed a hybrid program between meeting in person and virtual. There are still several free media platforms to accommodate virtual meetings. You must follow all youth protection policies and guidelines for online meetings including having multiple adults over the age of 21 present the entire time. If both male and female youth are on the same conferencing event, one adult of each gender must also actively participate. As a reminder, ensure youth are never recorded or filmed.
2. As a reminder, it is important that your unit committee develops its own COVID-19 safety plan and shares with your Chartered Organization to receive further guidance and permission to meet in-person. Your Chartered Organization may have its own policies and requirements on meetings. It is important this plan is communicated to each of your Scouting families. Although not required, it may be an excellent learning opportunity for your units youth leadership to participate in drafting and preparing the plan. For a detailed outline of what your plan should include, look at the [BAC COVID-19 Procedures Mitigation Plan Template](#) though at minimum, your plan should include:

Pre-Attendance Plan

Travel plans, self-screening for participants, PPE requirements, splitting participants into patrol-sized groups that will stay isolated to themselves.

During the Event Plan

Check-In and Check-Out procedures, camping arrangements, plan for not sharing equipment, program for event and how physical distancing will be kept, how will patrols be kept separated, tenting plans, cooking and dining plans to keep physical distancing, and severe weather event plans.

After Event Plan

How will gear and equipment be cleaned and stored, follow up plan for ensuring participants were not sick after event, communication plan for if a participant is tested positive.

3. Be sensitive to all families and consider offering a hybrid (both in-person and virtual) program opportunities to ensure all Scouts can participate. Parents should only resume in-person Scouting when they are comfortable. Scouts must be able to continue to be members in good standing and accrue tenure by participating in-person or virtually with the unit if parents state they are not yet comfortable having their youth participate in-person. Parents are highly encouraged to ask their unit leadership questions about the unit's plan to restart in-person Scouting safely and a unit should ONLY begin meeting if physical distancing can be ensured.
4. We know these times can be stressful for families. The Boy Scouts of America has resources available to help our families with stress and other mental health concerns. Please go to <https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/cd-resources/> to see what resources might be available to your unit.





5. Any activities or meetings by the unit should include a COVID-19 communication strategy. It should include a plan for if a member of the unit or their family tests positive for COVID-19 or has been exposed to someone who has tested positive and a contact tracing plan. Despite all precautionary measures, there is always a risk of exposure to communicable diseases. For guidance, please refer to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/open-america/contact-tracing/index.html>
6. Please follow local, state, and federal guidelines as it pertains to participation in activities. There are specific guidelines that continue to be set for activities such as museum visits, national, county, municipal, and state parks, zoos, and amusement parks. These guidelines can quickly change, so always check local, state, and federal guidelines before you participate in activities. Please familiar yourself with the Maryland Department of Health website and the restrictions for your county. For guidance, please go to <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/>.
7. When transporting Scouts, carpooling is highly discouraged. If a unit is planning an activity outside the State of Maryland, please also be aware of certain travel restrictions other states may have including the need for self-quarantining. Learn more about travel guidelines [here](#).
8. To help reduce the spread of COVID-19 while helping our units fundraise, the Baltimore Area Council highly encourages units to participate only in popcorn or Scout's Own fundraising. There are several options available this fall to keep your families safe including 100% online selling. Be on the lookout for promotions and other resources to help units have fundraising success this fall and winter. Check out <https://baltimorebsa.org/popcorn> to learn more. If a unit wishes to do a fundraiser outside of popcorn or Scout's Own, the unit must receive prior approval. Please go to <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34427.pdf> to obtain your unit fundraising application. All applications for unit fundraising are subject to approval.
9. When meeting as a group please remember:
 - Keep groups small (less than 10 people) with no mixing between groups.
 - To maintain physical distancing.
 - Please make sure there are no restrictions with your desired meeting venue.
 - To wear face coverings.
 - To sanitize the meeting area as well as the equipment used for each activity.
 - To keep attendance for both youth and adults in case contact tracing is needed.
 - To adhere to [Youth Protection Policies](#).
 - To ensure hand sanitizer is available (either supplied by the unit or requiring each person to bring their own) with unit and youth leaders encouraging regular use.
 - To encourage everyone to wash their hands with soap and water if available for at least 20 seconds.
 - Review the [BAC COVID-19 Procedures Guide](#) prior to planning or holding events.

There is also additional guidance that can be found at:

- <https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus>
- [COVID-19 FAQ](#)

While we know these guidelines make Scouting look a little different than normal, we must adhere to these changes for everyone's safety. We look forward to helping our units begin to meet and





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participate in activities again. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us should you need any help. As more updates become available, we will continue to update you accordingly.

