Restart Scouting Checklist

As always, the safety of our Scouts, volunteers, employees and communities is our top priority. This checklist outlines several minimum guiding protocols that adult leaders/volunteers must consider while working with local and state health departments, local councils, chartered organizations and Scouting families on when and how to resume meetings, service projects, camping and all other official Scouting activities.

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

S = Supervision

- ❑ Understand local and state guidance on preventing COVID-19 exposure.
- ❑ Engage your chartered organization and local council on necessary adjustments.
- ❑ Conduct the "before you gather" protocols.

A = Assessment

- ❑ Identify participants who fall under the CDC's group of higher-risk individuals. Notify all participants about the risks of participating since COVID-19 exposure cannot be eliminated.
- ❑ Verify that the planned activity, gathering or group sizes are not prohibited by local or state orders.

F = Fitness and Skill

- ❑ Review Annual Health and Medical Records and consider using a pre-event screening for all participants.

E = Equipment and Environment

- ❑ Verify that handwashing, hygiene and cleaning supplies are available and used properly.
- ❑ Monitor social distancing, interactions and sharing of equipment and food among participants.
- ❑ Monitor participants for changing health conditions.
- ❑ Use the "as you gather" protocols.

SAFE ≠ Risk-Free

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

Precautions and mitigation strategies are important, but they cannot eliminate the potential for exposure to COVID-19 or any other illness when in-person activities resume.

People with COVID-19 may show no signs or symptoms of illness, but they can spread the virus. Some people may be contagious before their symptoms occur. The fact is that someone with COVID-19 may pass the required health screenings and be allowed into program activities.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. If you are in this group, please ensure you have approval from your health care provider prior to resuming in-person Scouting activities.

Every member, volunteer and family must evaluate their unique circumstances and make an informed decision before attending in-person activities.

We hope this information will be helpful as you make that choice.

For updates, please monitor
https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus

Before you gather:

❑ **Consult** your council and chartered organization to understand community standards and protocols in place.

❑ **Communicate** to all parents and youth that the Boy Scouts of America recommends that no one in the higher-risk category take part in person. Continue to engage virtually.

❑ **Communicate** that anyone who feels sick must stay home. If you become sick or develop symptoms, isolate yourself then go home and seek care.

❑ **Educate and train** all participants on appropriate social distancing, cleaning and disinfecting, hand hygiene and respiratory (cough or sneeze) etiquette before meeting for the first time. Periodically reinforce the behaviors as needed.

❑ **Before attending**, upon arrival and at least daily for longer events, all participants should be screened for any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:

- **Cough**
- **Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing**
- **Chills**
- **Repeated shaking with chills**
- **Muscle pain**
- **Headache**
- **Sore throat**
- **Loss of taste or smell**
- **Diarrhea**
- **Feeling feverish or having a temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit**
- **Known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19**

❑ **As appropriate**, participants should have face coverings available to wear when gathering or when in public areas or venues. Several coverings per person may be needed.

❑ **Communicate** that those who take part in person should avoid contact with higher-risk individuals for 14 days after the event.

As you gather:

❑ **Minimize group sizes**. Small groups of participants who stay together all day every day, remain 6 feet apart and do not share objects are at the lowest risk. Think of a den or patrol that does not mix or gather with other dens or patrols, with supervision that stays with the small group. ***Scouting's Barriers to Abuse always apply.***

❑ **Stay local** to your geographic area and groups for unit activities. If you must travel, limit mixing with others along the way.

❑ **Minimize mixing** with parents or siblings unless they are part of the unit activity. For example, the same parent picks up and drops off youth, and stays in the car. No guests or visitors who have not been through the pre-gathering protocols and screening should take part.

❑ **Have hand sanitizer**, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available for use at meetings, activities and campouts.

❑ **Minimize the use** of common areas and shared tools. If unavoidable, they should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between uses.

❑ **Develop dining protocols** (including but not limited to):
- No self-serve buffet meals or common water coolers.
- Use of disposable utensils, napkins, cups and plates.
- Clean and disinfect eating and cooking gear after each use.

❑ **Develop tenting protocols** for the group:
- Minimize use of fans or devices that stir the air.
- Campers should sleep head-to-toe in bunks or cots spaced as far apart as possible.
- Individual tents, hammocks and bivys may be considered.

❑ **During program activities**:
- Equipment that must be shared should be disinfected before and after each use.
- Where possible, assign activity-related protective equipment for the duration of an event to a single individual (life jacket, gloves, harness).
- Effective handwashing before and after each program area use.

❑ **In case of an injury or illness**, promptly report the incident, including COVID-19 exposures. Utilize Incident Reporting Resources, including COVID-19 instructions.

When you get home:

❑ **Avoid contact** with higher-risk individuals for 14 days.
❑ **Monitor** for any signs of illness for 14 days, and
❑ **Communicate** with your unit leadership should you develop symptoms.

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