

SCOUTING SAFELY RECOMMENDATIONS & PLANNING GUIDE*

The following is meant to serve as guidance to help units plan how to safely conduct Scouting activities. These are best practices developed with consideration of updated recommendations from the CDC, and in consultation with the council COVID-19 Task Force, to provide for the safety of all Scouts and their families. Unit program should be conducted in accordance with current guidelines from the state of Ohio and CDC with approval of the unit's chartered organization and subject to the current COVID-19 protocols of any meeting/activity facility.

* Abide by guidance and restrictions from the state or county for your activity destination as well as your point of origin if applicable.

* Scouting Safely Planning Guide is subject to change with updated COVID-19 guidance from local, state, and federal sources.

* Always consult with your Chartered Organization before conducting an activity, and abide any additional guidelines provided by the organization.

* Should you have questions or concerns regarding the safe restart of Scouting in your unit, please email info@miamivalleybsa.org



1 Develop your Scout Unit's COVID-19 'Scouting Safely' plan with your unit committee.



2 Share your plan with your Scout Unit's Chartered Organization. Discuss other requirements and guidelines they may have in place and if your Scout unit has permission to begin using their facilities/ space for meetings.



3 Communicate your unit's plan to your Scouting families. Be sensitive to all families and consider that many Scouting participants are not age-eligible to receive the vaccine. Parents should only resume Scouting when they are comfortable. Parents are highly encouraged to ask their unit leadership questions about the unit's plan to restart Scouting safely and a unit should ONLY begin meeting if social distancing can be assured.



4 Monitor and adjust your unit's plan to be current with any new local, state, or federal changes.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. The Miami Valley Council fully supports the right of every individual to ensure their own safety and well-being. A person may wear a mask and take additional safety precautions at any time if they prefer to do so.
2. While national, state, and local guidance is generally provided, our chartered organizations may dictate more stringent practices and procedures/guidelines for personal safety. Units must operate minding any additional guidance implied by their chartered organization. Keep in mind that local municipalities may also dictate more stringent practices.
3. The Miami Valley Council continues to partner with our local health departments and review updated guidance from the State of Ohio, CDC, and National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

FACIAL COVERINGS

Regardless of vaccination status, it is **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED THAT ALL INDIVIDUAL WEAR A FACIAL COVERING*** indoors and outdoors only when social distancing is not possible. The Miami Valley Council will not seek any documentation from groups or individuals regarding their vaccination status. Individuals with health conditions that preclude wearing a face covering are exempt.

* Unless local municipal ordinances or chartered organizations dictate more stringent practices/ guidelines for personal safety.

GROUP SIZES

There are no longer any restrictions on the size of groups at meetings or activities. Only maximum capacity requirements of local health, fire, and safety codes apply. Social distancing is still encouraged particularly in groups of mixed-vaccination status.

CAMPING & OUR FACILITIES

1. All Miami Valley Council facilities are fully open to reserve at www.miamivalleybsa.org/rental with traditional capacity limits.
2. One Scout per tent is recommended unless Scouts are from the same household or Scouts are fully vaccinated. However, sharing of tents is allowable if necessary. Campers should sleep head to feet and maintain as much space and ventilation as possible.

TRANSPORTATION

1. CARPOOLING: Make every effort to keep Scouting experiences and adventures close to home to allow as many families as possible the opportunity to participate without having to make the difficult decision to send their Scout on a bus, van or in a carpool. If carpooling is necessary, please follow the CDC guidelines (found page 3 'Additional Resources') for carpooling.
2. Observe the guidelines and other travel restrictions that may be in place at the destination, particularly if it is in another state

DINING & FOOD PREP

Consider having at least one adult that reviews *ServSafe* guidelines and ensures that any youth involved in food service are directly supervised by adults. For campsite cooking or cooking 'in the field', consider using disposal food service items if proper cleaning and sanitation can't be maintained. Visit www.servsafe.com for more information on food preparation amidst the Coronavirus Pandemic.

HEALTH & SAFETY

1. FOR EASE IN CONTACT TRACING: Maintain attendance records and have a check-in policy for any scout, parent, leader, family member, visitor. Please record ALL individuals attending, with email addresses.
2. Have a prepared plan to address medical protocol should a Scout or Scouter become ill during a meeting or other activity.

MVC SERVICE CENTER & DISTRICT/COUNCIL OPERATIONS

1. In-person meetings for council and district committees may begin to take place, with a virtual (zoom, etc) option where possible. Regardless of vaccination status, it is **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED THAT ALL INDIVIDUAL WEAR A FACIAL COVERING*** indoors and outdoors only when social distancing is not possible.

* Unless local municipal ordinances or chartered organizations dictate more stringent practices/ guidelines for personal safety.

2. We are supplying and requiring our associates to wear protective masks and other facial coverings and **STRONGLY ENCOURAGING ALL OUR CUSTOMERS TO WEAR A MASK** when entering the Service Center and Scout Shop.