

On Monday, June 8th the Northeast Iowa Council unit-level meetings and activities are permitted to resume in-person **if meetings and activities can follow local government and Scouting regulations**. At this time District or Council level meetings and activities are not permitted to resume in-person. These recommendations are designed to mitigate risk, but all participants need to be aware that any activity puts them at risk of exposure. Please remember that exposure to coronavirus could be asymptomatic. If a person becomes infected, they may become asymptomatic carriers and would then most likely infect other people unknowingly. **Unit Leaders are responsible for ensuring all participants follow the following regulations for Scouting activities and meetings:**

- 1) **All local, state, and federal safety guidelines must be followed.** Unit Leaders are responsible for reviewing and enforcing guidelines for not only your unit's meeting location, but the location of any activity destination. Local, state, and federal safety guidelines must be followed.
- 2) **Gain permission from your Charter Partner before resuming any meetings or activities.** Some charter partners are not encouraging their members to meet in-person yet, are not opening their facilities for meetings or have imposed additional restrictions. Rules or guidance from your charter partner must be followed.
- 3) Ensure all **BSA Youth Protection and Guide to Safe Scouting** practices are adhered to.

In order to mitigate the health risk of spreading Coronavirus to our volunteers and Scouts, the Northeast Iowa Council is providing the following recommendations:

- 1) 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 in-person Scouting activities.
- 2) All participants should review their current health prior to participating in any Scouting activity. Individuals with temperatures and other symptoms of COVID-19 should not participate.
- 3) If Leaders are considering resuming in-person meetings or activities, it is recommended to slowly phase back. This may include starting with shorter day-activities in a large indoor or outdoor environment for smaller groups (dens/patrols) vs. an overnight camping experience for a pack or troop.
- 4) Leaders should consider the age of the youth invited and who is all invited to attend when determining if social distancing can be accomplished.
- 5) All units should keep a detailed roster of participants for all meetings and activities, so they are prepared in the event that contact tracing is required.
- 6) All individuals who believe they may have been exposed to Coronavirus should quarantine for 14-days prior to participation in any Scouting activity.
- 7) Transportation to and from activities should be made within family units. Carpooling should be discouraged.
- 8) Enhanced hygiene supplies should be provided as well as frequent reminders of use at the beginning, middle, and end of any meeting or activity. Each Scout and adult should wear a mask.
- 9) No in-person Scouting event should be mandatory. As regulations begin to loosen individuals within your unit may have varying levels of comfort or anxiety.
- 10) As plans are being discussed, leaders should ask themselves "Is it legal? Can we do it safely while following all the regulations? Does it follow BSA programming and safety policies?" If there is any doubt that that can't be accomplished, the Northeast Iowa Council recommends not holding the event or activity.

Finally, as Scouts, it is important that we demonstrate the principles of the Scout Law. As we move forward let's be **cheerful** while showing **reverence** to the rules, regulations and guidance of our state, counties, cities, and Chartered Organizations.

Stay Safe and Scout On!

Resources:

[Iowa COVID-19 Proclamations](#) (On [May 26<sup>th</sup> Proclamation](#), see Page 8 for "Mass Gatherings"- Effective June 1)

[Illinois COVID-19](#)

[National BSA COVID-19 FAQ](#)

[Northeast Iowa Council COVID-19](#)