

COVID-19 Camping Guidelines

Boy Scouts of America, Mecklenburg Council, Apache District Camping Events

The following shall serve as guidelines for overnight outings, including Cuboree, Webelosree, and Camporees, until revised or modified by the Mecklenburg County Council.

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

Boy Scouts of America camping policy: There is no prohibition against outings. Rather, Boy Scouts of America strongly advises that in-person activities be conducted only within the guidelines outlined by State and local health departments, as well as, under the direction of the local council.ⁱ

Mecklenburg Council camping policy: The Mecklenburg Council is allowing overnight camping for all units, including overnight camping at both Camp Grimes and Belk Scout Camp, depending upon availability.

North Carolina camping policy: North Carolina's phased reopening does not include a prohibition on overnight camping.

Group size: In adherence to the Phase 3 express requirements, groups may not exceed 50 individuals for any activities. Thus, the total number of individuals (scouts, leaders, etc.) shall not exceed 50 in any group, at any time.

Hand washing: Leaders shall require mandatory hand washing throughout the day.

Masks: Masks shall be worn while inside any building or where physical distancing of six (6) feet is not possible. Per Phase 3, "children 11 years or old must wear face coverings at day or overnight camps when they are or may be within 6 feet of another person."ⁱⁱ

Day Camp Option: For those interested, Scouts may attend the day session. However, overnight camping is encouraged.

Parent Attendance: Any parent or guardian may attend the event. All adult attendees must have completed Youth Protection Training within the last two years.

Siblings: Siblings are permitted only if a Scout cannot attend without allowing a parent to bring a sibling. If the Scout can attend while a sibling stays home, they should do so.

Post-Camp: **If a participant or attendee begin experiencing symptoms within the 14-day period after camp, please notify the Council immediately.**

PRE-ARRIVAL:

Pre-Attendance Education Plan: Each Scout attending camp should read and discuss with their parent's information in an article entitled "A Healthy Camp Begins and Ends at Home". Click the link provided to find the article. <https://www.acacamps.org/resource-library/research/healthy-camp-toolbox>

Prior to Departure: Health screening for each Scout and Leader should be conducted by your unit prior to travel to our camps:

- Temperature check (Not to be 100.4 or higher)
- Ask each individual:
 - Have you been out of the country in the past two months?
 - Have you had a fever (i.e. 100.4F/38C or higher) in the past 48 hours?
 - Have you had a persistent cough or newly occurring cough in the past 48 hours?
 - Have you been in contact with anyone who has tested positive of COVID 19 in the last 14 days? Are you currently isolating or in quarantine because of this possible exposure?
 - Have you experienced any of the following symptoms in the last 48 hours: *shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea?*
 - Are you currently awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test?
- If the answer is yes to any of the questions above, then you should not bring the person to camp.

Travel: Each family is expected or responsible to handle transportation to and from camp. Understanding that carpooling outside of the immediate family may be necessary, please understand the risks of traveling in a confined space outside of your immediate family. Create as much space as possible and wear masks.

ARRIVAL:

Health Screens: Upon arrival, all individuals entering camp shall submit to a temperature check and shall submit a verbal questionnaire that will be signed. This includes all occupants in the vehicle. Occupants shall remain in the vehicle until authorized to proceed. For Camp Grimes, screenings shall occur near the Nichol's Shelter. If there is no temperature, questionnaires, health forms, and signed waivers will be submitted at the Health Lodge.

Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will not be permitted into camp. They will pull their vehicle aside and sit for 10 minutes. Temperatures will be taken again. If the temperature persists above 100.4 then all occupants in the vehicle must leave camp immediately.

Health Forms: All attendees shall provide a Part A and Part B of the Boy Scouts of America Annual Health and Medical Record. You may find the document at this link: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf

IN CAMP PROCEDURES:

Tenting: Participants should not stay in the same tent unless they are in the same immediate family. If staying in an adirondack, they shall sleep head to toe and remain socially distant as much as possible. Additionally, participants may sleep in a hammock, but be remain socially distanced. If tenting safely is a know issue before coming to camp, unit leaders should contact District leadership.

Packing List: All Scouts are requested to bring their “10 Essentials”. In addition, scouts should bring a folding chair, reusable water bottle, cloth masks, personal hand sanitizer, and other necessary items.

Guests: Only individuals associated with the unit may enter said unit’s campsite. No guests are permitted in camp.

Meals: Units will be cooking and eating together as a Unit in Camp. However, on Saturday, lunch will be provided by Chic Fil A for the Webelosree participants (not Troops). Gluten Free and Vegan options will be available. Lunch pick up will be available at one of several designated pick-up locations. Units must eat at their campsite or at another location. The dining hall will remain closed.

Program Areas: Program leads at areas should take all necessary precautions to ensure a safe environment. Unit leaders should support and assist program leads in these mitigation efforts

- Common touchpoints should be disinfected between use.
- Hand sanitizer should be available and used between common contact points.
- Social distancing should be maintained, and masks worn when this is not possible.
- At common bottleneck areas (shooting ranges and climbing, though not limited to those areas) unit leaders should take charge of their group and ensure adequate social distancing from other units and participant’s while waiting for their turn to utilize the program area.

MISC.:

Fishing: Scouts interested in fishing will need to bring their own fishing gear. Bait will be provided for catch and release fishing.

Camp Gatherings: Traditional camp gatherings (campfire, faith service, flag assembly) are encouraged to be conducted in campsite. If they are to proceed, all participants must wear masks and be socially distanced.

Folding Chairs: All scouts are encouraged to bring their own folding chair and to assist in maintaining social distancing while in a group session.

Water Bottles: All participants should bring their own reusable water bottle. Cups will not be provided.

Personal Hand Sanitizer: All scouts and adults are encouraged to bring their own bottles of hand sanitizer.

Our mitigation plan is important, but it cannot remove the potential for exposure to COVID-19 or any other illness while at camp. Some people with COVID-19 show no signs or symptoms of illness but can still spread a virus, and people may be contagious while they are asymptomatic. This means that an infected person may pass the required health screenings and be allowed into camp.

We realize that the very nature of camp makes social distancing difficult in many situations and impossible in others. We encourage everyone to maintain the proper physical distancing in accordance with the CDC guidelines.

We know that each Scout, Scouter, volunteer, and Scouting family has a unique set of circumstances to consider when deciding whether to attend camp. We hope this information will be helpful as you make those choices.

You will be required to complete the Waiver and Release of Liability related to COVID-19. Please read the entire page. Then, please fill out the bottom portion and sign the form. This form must accompany each Scout and adult attending a unit function at either Camp Grimes or Belk Scout Camp, a district program at camp, or a council camping program event (i.e. Webelos Adventure Camp, Carolina Trailblazer Camp, Day Camp, etc.)

RESOURCES:

ⁱ Scouts BSA COVID-19 FAQ (updated 6/25/2020) <https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus/covid-19-faq/#:~:text=%E2%80%93%20All%20existing%20youth%20protection%20policies,effect%20until%20September%201%2C%202020.>

ⁱⁱ NC Department of Health and Human Services, *Requirements for the Use of Face Coverings and Masks*, August 27, 2020. <https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/NCDHHS-Interim-Guidance-on-Face-Coverings.pdf>