

2021 COVID-19 Policies for Scouts & Parents

Every Scout and parent is to receive a copy of this information well ahead of camp.

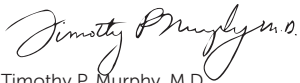
Dear Scouts and Parents:

Camp Geiger was one of the few Scout camps in the nation to open last summer. Our COVID mitigation program was successful and we were able to complete the camping season without any known cases of COVID-19 at camp.

We have learned a great deal in the year that has transpired. Here are some things we now know:

- Although case levels throughout the US are greater than what they were a year ago, the national case rate is declining rapidly. Hospitalizations are decreased and the severity rate of the disease generally is less largely due to individuals having had COVID already, and of course, the new vaccines. At camp time last year, we were apparently in the early phase of the pandemic.
- We now know that the Scout age population is, generally speaking, unlikely to develop serious illness even if they contract the virus. There can be exceptions.
- Adults over the age of 65 and adults of any age with significant co-morbidities are at significantly increased risk. They will be required to have a vaccine to attend camp, (or produce a letter of contraindication from a physician or nurse practitioner), but we are encouraging all adults to get vaccinated to help build herd immunity. If we can accomplish that, then 2021 may be the last year we have to have restrictions and special processes for camp.
- Camp Geiger will operate this year. The preregistered attendance is significantly higher than last year. We have been able to relax some restrictions, but not others. This is explained in detail below. PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAREFULLY. WE ARE GOING TO FOLLOW THIS PLAN--TO THE LETTER.

Yours in Scouting,



Timothy P. Murphy, M.D.
Council Supervising Physician (1998-2021)

PRE-CAMP POLICIES FOR 2021

All Scouts must present a **current year** BSA Health and Medical form with parts A, B, and C complete with required signatures.

No Scout or Leader with a current COVID-19 infection may attend camp.

No Scout or Leader who has had a COVID-19 infection within the three weeks prior to camp may attend **without lab or medical office documentation of a negative COVID-19 PCR test.**

A COVID-19 vaccine will be required of all Leaders over the age of 65. Adults under the age of 65 with any of the following conditions must have a COVID-19 Vaccine and a copy of their "COVID Card" or other official documentation MUST be attached to the physical form. The only exception to this vaccine policy occurs if your physician provides you with a statement that this vaccine is contraindicated for you. (If you had a vaccine, even if not required, we would like you to attach a copy of it to your physical form.) High risk conditions requiring a vaccine for adult:

- Morbid Obesity
- Diabetes
- COPD
- Heart Disease (Structural or Functional)
- Blood Disorders
- Kidney or Liver Disease
- Weakened Immune System or Immunodeficiencies. This includes secondary immunodeficiency that occurs with immunosuppressing drugs such as chemotherapeutics for cancer and anti-rejection drugs.

IN-CAMP POLICIES FOR 2021

All Scouts and Leaders will present to camp with the **2021 Final Home Screening and Liability Waiver** properly completed. Keep those two documents together. The Final Home Screening form should be completed by the camper or Leader **no earlier than the morning he or she is leaving for camp and BEFORE he or she joins up with the rest of the troop!** All campers will be subjected to a symptom *recheck* upon arrival at the designated area.

Once all screening has been performed, all Scouts and Leaders who have passed the screening will be issued a permanent wrist band which is to be placed on the wrist immediately and worn throughout the week. Once that has happened, Scouts are released into the main camp **but remain sequestered within the camp boundaries for the duration of camp.**

There will be no outside visitors to camp at all, and that does include the Wednesday night campfire and Thursday and Friday Mic-O-Say ceremonies.

Individuals designated "Essential Program Personnel" who are not camping at Geiger but coming into camp for specific, time-limited program purposes have

a special screening protocol to follow and will be issued a temporary wrist band certifying they have passed screening. They are subject to the same vaccine rules.

Morning in-campsite symptom checks will be done every morning for every Scout and Leader camped, and the record of this will be submitted by a leader at the parade ground before Scouts are admitted within the parade ground area to potentially mix with other Scouts. Your troop will be issued an infrared thermometer for your troop at check-in which is to be returned to your camp commissioner Saturday morning. Troops may opt to bring their own thermometer. Hand sanitizer stations will be present at multiple locations throughout the camp. Encourage your Scouts and Leaders to use them frequently. Troops need to bring hand sanitizer for their campsite and Scouts will be encouraged to use it frequently.

Normal tent arrangements will be in place in all campsites, with two to a tent. A head-toe, toe-head arrangement for sleeping is recommended. Troops may opt for one person to a tent so long as the troop brings the extra tentage. Keep in mind the terrain of some campsites may not permit this to be easily done.

Andrew County, under whose health guidelines we operate, has lifted its mask mandate, so masks will not be required for Scouts and Leaders. Those who wish to wear them are certainly encouraged to do so. Dining hall operation will be different than last year but not entirely as we normally do it. Troops will return to the 8 to a table seating and we will return to family-style serving. No clamshell boxes this year. However, troops are considered "cohorts" and will eat together at the tables. We will not mix troops at the tables, even if that leaves empty seats. The camp staff will again serve as waiters, setting up the tables, procuring seconds, and doing the after-meal clean up. Since staff will be circulating through the various cohorts in the dining hall, the camp staff involved it that *will* wear masks.

Your troop is your "cohort." You were screened as a troop, you camp as a troop, and in the dining hall you will sit and eat as a troop. We do this because the dining hall is a more packed, enclosed space. Almost all other Scout activities are outdoors where risk of COVID spread is significantly reduced.

If any Scout or Leader develops any symptoms suspicious for COVID-19 any time during the week, he or she is to go without delay to the Health Lodge for evaluation, avoiding contact with anyone else while en route.

For **general camp questions**, you may contact the Scout Executive, Alan Franks at our Council office at 816-233-1351 or at alan.franks@scouting.org. Or you may direct them to the Camp Director, Dave Fox at davefox311@gmail.com. For **specific medical questions**, you may direct them to me at tim.murphy@mymlc.com.

Prior to your receiving this document, policies for this year have undergone several revisions on March 1, April 1, and May 1. Leaders have been kept updated on these. **This document represents the final policies for 2021 for all Scouts and Leaders and will not be further updated.**



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Pony Express Council
1704 Buckingham Street
St. Joseph, MO 64506
816-233-1351
www.ponyexpressbsa.org