

INITIAL POLICY STATEMENT • DISTRIBUTED MARCH 1, 2021

These statements will be updated on April 1 and May 1.

2021 COVID-19 Policies for Unit Leaders

THIS INFORMATION IS FOR UNIT LEADERS. A SEPARATE, FINAL POLICY SHEET FOR SCOUTS & PARENTS WILL BE RELEASED MAY 1.

Dear Scout Leaders,

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:

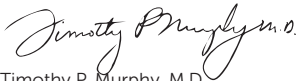
- Case levels throughout the US are many times greater than what they were a year ago. At camp time last year, we were apparently in the early phase of the pandemic.
- The Scout age population is, generally speaking, unlikely to develop serious illness even if they contract the virus.
- Older individuals and/or those with significant co-morbidities (of any age) who contract the virus may develop serious, life-threatening or even terminal disease.
- We now have a vaccine. How extensively and rapidly this vaccine will be disseminated before camp is uncertain at this time.

Our present plan is to definitely open Camp Geiger for operation. Since the country has had more than a year of experience with this virus and has a greater understanding of its behavior and impact, we anticipate that camp participation will be considerably greater this year.

The operational plan will begin in a manner almost identical to last year's plan. *If circumstances warrant, certain aspects of these policies may be relaxed.* For your planning now, assume we will operate exactly as noted below. This guidance will be updated on the first day of each new month. Each time it is, you will receive the new update via email.

Information sheets for your Scouts and parents as well as your "Final Home Screening Before Leaving for Camp" checklist and the Liability Waiver will be sent to you on May 1, 2021.

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 / adults over the age of 65.

A COVID-19 vaccine will be required of any Leader or Scout, *regardless of age* who has any of the following comorbidities.

- Severe Persistent Asthma
- COPD
- Heart Disease (Structural or Functional)
- Blood Disorders
- Diabetes
- Kidney or Liver Disease
- Weakened Immune System or Immunodeficiencies
- Morbid Obesity (Adult BMI > 40; Youth BMI > 99 %ile)

Please inform **now** any individuals for whom a vaccine will be required so as to allow them ample time to comply. Anyone who has received a COVID-19 vaccine must attach a copy of his/her CDC "Covid Card" or other official documentation to his/her BSA Health and Medical Record.

IN-CAMP POLICIES FOR 2021

All Scouts and Leaders will present to camp with the Same Day Symptom Checklist and Liability Waiver properly completed.

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. Once that has happened, Scouts are released into the main camp but sequestered within the camp boundaries for the duration of camp.

There will be **no outside visitors** at camp throughout the week, including the Wednesday Night Campfire and Thursday and Friday night Mic-O-Say ceremonies.

Individuals designated "Essential Program Personnel" who are not camping at Geiger but coming into camp for specific, limited program purposes will be screened at the gate and issued a temporary wrist band certifying they have passed screening. The over 65 vaccine rule and comorbidities vaccine rule applies to these individuals as well, even though they are not staying at camp permanently.

Morning in-campsite symptom checks will be done every morning and submitted by a leader at the parade ground before Scouts are admitted to the parade ground area to potentially mix with other Scouts. You will be issued an infrared thermometer for your troop at check-in which is to be returned to your camp commissioner Saturday morning. If not returned, your troop will be charged for it.

Hand sanitizer stations will be present at multiple locations throughout the camp. Encourage your Scouts and Leaders to use them 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.

Masks will be worn at any indoor Camp Geiger facility including the Trading Post, Museum, Dining Hall (as you enter and leave), Herzog Lodge, Nature Lodge, and the large costume building room in Mic-O-Say Lodge. Masks will not be required in outdoor settings.

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. Masks may be removed at the table but are to be put back on if you leave your table while in the dining hall and when you leave the dining hall until you are outside. There will be no mixing of troops in the dining hall, even if that means there are empty seats at a table.

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, minimizing contact with anyone 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.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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