

Special Procedures for Camp Geiger 2020

INITIAL PLAN AS OF MAY 15, 2020 - MAY BE REVISED AND UPDATED AS NECESSARY

The decision to open Camp Geiger in 2020 is based on our ability to follow CDC, state, local and BSA recommendations and operate safely within those guidelines. In order to increase the opportunity to provide the Geiger experience for as many Scouts as possible, the early sessions of camp were canceled and an additional session has been added to the end of the camp season.

This bulletin outlines the changes to our traditional operating procedures. The health and safety of our Scouts and Leaders remains our primary concern. Every policy below aims to maximize our chances of accomplishing that goal.

Even with these significant changes and measures in place, we cannot guarantee that COVID-19 will not be within our camp borders. Moreover, despite all of the additional screening and sanitizing measures which will be in place, we recognize that Coronavirus can infect people who subsequently may or may not show symptoms, and that it can also be spread by asymptomatic people. Scouts and Leaders who attend camp do so, assuming all of the potential risks of infection.

EVERY PARENT AND LEADER IS TO RECEIVE THESE GUIDELINES

Every leader and the parent of every Scout who attends camp must receive a copy of these guidelines. Parents and leaders will be required to sign a document stating that he or she has read and understood them, as well as the accompanying "Assumption of the Risk, Release and Waiver of Liability Relating to COVID-19" document.

BSA CLASS A, B, AND C PHYSICAL REQUIRED

While requiring a physical is no different than any other year, we are encouraging parents and Leaders to schedule physicals **now** for a day that falls **within approximately two weeks** of the first day of their camp session. This makes the information and the exam as timely as possible. Almost all medical facilities have been operating at very low volumes for weeks. Scheduling now for a time several weeks from now will be relatively easy.

SAME DAY HOME MEDICAL SCREENING

Every Scout parent and Leader must complete a Same Day Home Medical Screening form. This

form must be completed on the morning of the day the Scout is going to camp. It will contain several health questions that apply to the Scout or Leader's condition at that time. It will require the Scout or Leader to record a temperature on the form that morning. **The form will also contain the "Assumption of the Risk, Release and Waiver of Liability Relating to COVID-19" document** which acknowledges understanding of the measures that the camp is taking for the safety of Scouts, but further acknowledges that Camp Geiger and The Pony Express Council, cannot state that Coronavirus does not exist within the camp borders and that attending camp is risk free. It isn't.

NO VISITORS

In 2020, visitors will not be allowed in camp. Regrettably, this applies to all Scouting activities, the Wednesday Night Campfire and the Mic-O-Say Tapping Ceremony on Thursday night.

CHECK-IN PROCESS

When your troop enters camp, a barricade will be in place at the junction of the main road and the ridge road by Headquarters. All vehicles will be diverted



to ridge on the left. A check-in and screening area will be set up near the Dining Hall. Scouts and Leaders will undergo their first in-camp screening at that location. This is where the **BSA Health Form (physical), Same Day Home Medical Screening Form and Assumption of the Risk, Release and Waiver of Liability Relating to COVID-19** are submitted. At this station, a member of the staff will again ask screening questions and will measure a temperature. Only when the screening has been completed will the unit be released to enter the main part of camp. No one who has not been screened may enter the main camp. Adults who are driving vehicles with gear but who are not staying at camp must undergo the same screening before they are allowed to enter camp.

When this process is finished on Sunday, it will mean that the Scout camp will contain only individuals who have been cleared by their physician to attend camp, have passed a home screening on the morning of camp, and a passed final check-in day screening upon arrival at camp.

DAILY SCREENING

Each Scout troop will conduct a daily morning screening in the campsite which will consist of several health questions and a temperature check. Units will be provided non-contact infrared thermometers. The responses to the questions and the temperature of each Scout and Leader will be recorded on a form. (This form will be sent to troop Leaders ahead of camp so that the names of all who will be attending can be recorded and the form duplicated to have enough forms for each day of the week). Scouts may not leave the campsite in the morning before this procedure is carried out. No member of the troop may enter the flag parade ground until the entire troop is assembled outside of the parade ground and a leader presents the completed form. The entire troop must be present before entry onto the parade ground is allowed. Because we recognize these procedures will require additional time, First Call and Reveille bugles will be sounded earlier this year.

POLICY FOR THOSE WHO BECOME ILL

If a Scout or Leader develops fever, chills, cough,

shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, vomiting or diarrhea for which another cause cannot be confidently determined, that individual will regrettably be required to leave camp. We recognize that this is a more stringent requirement than we have followed in previous years. For the year 2020, it is essential.

IF SIGNS OF ILLNESS ARE DETECTED

When any sign of illness is detected in a Scout, two individuals (with appropriate distancing) must immediately escort that Scout to the camp Health Lodge without any stops or contacts along the way. The Scout will be evaluated there and if it is determined that he must go home, he will be kept comfortable in the Health Lodge isolation room until his parents can come get him.

CAMPSITE HEALTH

Each troop will be required to bring additional hand sanitizer and soap to ensure that Scouts wash hands for a full 20 seconds before entering the dining hall. Units will be required to sanitize all tables and latrine areas twice daily. Camp Geiger will provide bleach (which is viricidal) and other cleaning materials for sanitizing the tables, surfaces, and latrines.

Scouts will be assigned two to a tent as is customary, but will be asked to bunk in opposite directions on their cots so that Scouts are not face to face when sleeping. Troops have the option to bring additional tents if they want their Scouts and Leaders to camp one to a tent.

Masks will not be required of Scouts and Leaders. We had to weigh the benefit of masks versus the possible negative outcome of requiring masks be worn on very hot days. The retained heat could significantly increase the risk of developing heat stroke. But any Scout or Leader who wishes to bring a mask to camp and wear it may do so.

DINING HALL

The dining hall procedure this year will be quite different. Scouts and Leaders will sit four to a table



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rather than the customary eight. In many sessions, it may be necessary to have tables outside the dining hall building under the cover of large, open tents. Speakers will be set up outside so that dining hall programs can be heard by all.

The usual family style meal tradition will not be followed this year. Instead, we will have serving lines and food will be served to Scouts by staff members (behind Plexiglas shields). Paper plates will be used this summer. Condiments such as salt and paper will be available in individual packets eliminating the need for common containers that would have to be sanitized. There will be no salad bar this year or any self-serve areas.

We already know this method of serving works well for large groups. Older Scouts know that meals have been served in this fashion at the Tribal Feast for several years. Because of this change in serving procedures, for this year only, there will be no table waiters. No setup is required before meals and the staff will do the cleanup and sanitizing of tables afterward.

PROGRAM AREAS

All program areas will be required to sanitize all program items and tables before each activity period. Hand sanitizer stations will be available in all program areas and at the entrances of or immediately within

all camp buildings.

Aquatics area shower houses will be sanitized several times per day. Chlorine levels will be monitored so that concentrations are both safe and viricidal. If levels are found to be lower than required, the pool will be closed until levels can be corrected.

An alternate no-contact method will be used for buddy checks.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distancing is the single best method for limiting the spread of disease. It will be adhered to as closely as possible. Since there will be no visitors, large gatherings such as Wednesday night campfire, it is fairly easy to do, given the large size of the council ring.

LEAVING AND RETURNING

Some adults must leave camp for other obligations and duties. When they return, they must first undergo re-screening before proceeding further into camp. Road barriers will be in place to ensure that this happens. These periodic re-screenings will occur at or near the Health Lodge and individuals must adhere to the screening policy before heading into the main camp.

These special policies are in place in the year 2020 only, for medical, health, and safety reasons. In many cases, they are a significant departure from our historic operational norms. But we trust that every Leader, Scout and parent understands fully that the extraordinary phenomenon of a pandemic that has not yet resolved requires extraordinary health and safety measures.

If you have questions regarding any of these procedures, or have health or medical concerns that were not addressed here, you may feel free to email me at tim.murphy@mymlc.com.

Timothy Murphy, M.D.
Supervising Physician
Camp Geiger

These policies were developed by Timothy Murphy, M.D., Supervising Physician; David Fox, Camp Director; Alan Franks, Scout Executive; Dale Werts, Council President; Ed Stroud, Chairman, Camping Committee



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