

Five Rivers Council Unit Reopening

The Five Rivers Council (FRC) understands that our youth and adults want to get back into Scouting and the outdoors as soon as possible. While we understand and agree with you, we also need to do this in a safe manner for our members and our program. We have outlined several requirements for Unit operations. In this everchanging environment, it is essential to note that State and Regional guidelines will always take priority. ***All recommendations and guidelines issued by any Government entity (CDC, State, County, Dept. of Health) will be considered as requirements, and not suggestions.*** The safety of our Scouts, Leaders, Families, and Community is of paramount importance. Scouts have always been seen as leaders, and we will continue to set a good example for all. Failure to follow either Government or FRC guidelines can result in the end of membership with the Scouting program.

The CDC currently recommends:

- Establish and maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet between people.
- Anyone 2 years and older should wear a cloth face covering over their nose and mouth when in settings where it's difficult to practice social distancing. This is an additional public health measure people should take to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in addition to (not instead of) other preventative actions listed.
- Keep at least 6 feet between yourself and others, even when you wear a face covering.
- No sharing or common use items
- Anything that is used/touched must be cleaned/disinfected before another person can use it.
- No playgrounds
- No close/near contact sports or activities
- If anyone is feeling unwell, they are not to attend an activity
- If anyone becomes unwell during the event they are to be separated from the group and sent home immediately

As of the time of this writing, **Pennsylvania** units in our Council are currently in a yellow phase.

- Gatherings of more than 25 are prohibited
- Indoor recreation remains closed

As of the time of this writing, **Pennsylvania** units in our Council are currently in a green phase.

- Gatherings of more than 25 are prohibited
- Indoor recreation is open within limitation on occupancy requirements.

As of this writing, it is believed that in **New York**, in-person Scouting will be allowed when our Regions enter Phase 4. There have not been any clear guidelines released for Phase 4 yet, but we believe that they will closely follow the above-mentioned guidelines.

National BSA policy/direction to all Councils is to follow the Federal and State guidelines and the direction from the Department of Health.

The **Five Rivers Council** Executive Board has adopted the following requirements for Unit, District & Council operations once Federal, State and Local Restrictions allow in-person Scouting activities to resume.

- Guide to Safe Scouting requirements always apply
- Youth Protection Guidelines always apply
- Virtual meetings are strongly encouraged
- In-person meetings/activities:
 - **Must** be outdoors
 - Social distancing to be maintained
 - Masks **must** be worn whenever anyone is within 6 feet of a non-household member
 - Scout salute will replace handshakes
 - All shared items (i.e., ropes, books, tools, etc.) must be decontaminated between users
 - Any food/drink at the meeting/activity must be individually packaged
 - Any person that is feeling unwell is prohibited from attending or even dropping someone off
 - Any person who becomes unwell will be immediately separated from the group and sent home. The Unit's District Executive must be contacted anytime this happens, see notification section below.
 - When in-person Scouting activities are permitted to resume, Groups cannot exceed 20 people, including but not limited to Scouts, Leaders, family members and non-Scouting adults.
 - This would also include gathering in the parking lot. For example, a Pack of 30 Scouts and adults has a meeting in a Park with the intent of each Den meeting in a different location. This would not be allowed. While the Den meetings would be within the allowable numbers, the number of people in the parking lot at any given time would exceed the allowable numbers.
 - **No** activities involving physical contact between individuals.
- Camping
 - Follow all guidelines of the park/campground
 - Only 1 person to a tent, unless they are members of the same household
 - Follow all guidelines listed under the Activities section
 - No patrol or group style cooking.
 - No sharing of utensils or cookware

- Fundraising
 - Prior to submitting a Unit Money Earning Application, the Committee Chair or the Unit Leader will contact the District Executive to review the Fundraising plan.
 - What is the Fundraiser
 - Amount of people at the fundraiser at any given time
 - What precautions are to be taken/implemented
 - Plan for health issues that arise
 - Plan for promotion

- Travel – The CDC is strongly discouraging any travel not deemed essential. Since the FRC encompasses 2 states and 2 regions in NY, **the following travel restrictions are imposed:**

No Unit from a closed region/State will be allowed to travel to a region/State that is open and there will be no travel from an open region/State to a closed one. A Unit's location is based on the address of their Chartered Organization and not where they meet.

Example 1: A Troop in NY cannot go on a hike in PA. Although PA may be open for outdoor recreation, NY programs are closed until Phase 4.

Example 2: A Pack in PA cannot go to a park in NY. While parks in NY may be open for individual use, programs like Scouting are closed until phase 4 of the reopening plan.

In a case where the situation or circumstances create the need for clarification, the Committee Chair or Unit Leader will contact the District Executive to obtain that clarification or guidance. The District Executive's decision on these matters is binding and carries the same weight as these guidelines/requirements.

The health and well-being of our Scouts, their families, our communities, and the Scouting program is of the utmost importance to the Five Rivers Council. **Failure by any individual to follow these requirements and guidelines will result in an immediate suspension from the Scouting program. Any leader who allows such behavior/violation to occur will be immediately suspended from the Scouting program.**

Notification

It is the intent of the FRC to create a safe and fun program under these stressful times. However, no matter the best laid plans, it is inevitable that someone is bound to become unwell. When anyone at an event becomes unwell, they are to be immediately isolated from the group and sent home.

As soon as possible, the adult leader of the event will contact their District Executive and provide the following information:

- Who became unwell
- Name and Contact info
- Reason they were there (i.e. Scout, Leader, Parent, sibling)
- Symptoms and when they developed
- How were they isolated
- Name and contact information for all people present and who may have had contact (less than 6 ft)
- What was the nature of the event?
 - Meeting
 - Hike
 - Game

Virtual Alternatives

Scouting still continues and the above listed guidelines/requirements may be difficult to implement and still have a fun program. If your Unit has not already done so, you should consider virtual alternatives to keep the Scouting program going. Please refer to the FRC document titled **Virtual Alternatives to Unit Activities**