

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.

In consultation with the NYS State Empire Development Committee, it has been determined that before any Scouting event/activity can restart, a [NY Forward Business Re-Opening Safety Plan](#) must be submitted. All Units in the Five Rivers Council must complete and submit their plan to their District Executive prior to restarting in-person activities. This must be submitted a minimum of 5 business days prior to start of activities/events. Additionally, as part of any restart planning effort, we require an affirmation from each unit's Committee Chair that their Chartered Organization Representative has been contacted and given their approval to restart in-person activities, suggested phrasing at the end. The [BSA National Restart Scouting Checklist](#) **must** be followed and used as a resource when filling out the NYS form. These requirements will apply to all units and District/Council Activities in the Five Rivers Council. The FRC has determined that these are very sound best practices to keep our program and Scouts safe and will be required of ALL units and programs including those chartered in PA.

Start-Up – Summary: In order to restart in-person activities and operations, you must submit to the Council

- [NY Forward Business Re-Opening Safety Plan](#)
- Emailed statement from each unit's Committee Chair affirming that the Chartered Organization Representative has agreed to restarting unit operations

The **Five Rivers Council** has adopted the following requirements for Unit, District & Council operations.

- Guide to Safe Scouting requirements always apply
- Youth Protection Guidelines always apply
- Virtual meetings are strongly encouraged
- In-person meetings/activities:
 - [BSA Restart Scouting Checklist](#) applies – particular attention to the section: Group Size: ie. Small groups of participants who stay together all day,.....(**MUST**)
 - Approval to operate from your Chartered Organization Representative
 - Submission of [NY Forward Business Re-Opening Safety Plan](#)

- 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.
- **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
 - No patrol or group style cooking.
 - No sharing of utensils or cookware
- Fundraising
 - The [NY Forward Business Re-Opening Safety Plan](#) must be submitted with the Unit Money Earning Application to your District Executive prior to the fundraising event. This must be submitted at a minimum of 5 business days prior to the event.

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

- 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**

Affirmation from the Committee Chair

I (insert name), am the registered Committee Chair for unit (insert Pack/Troop/Crew and number) chartered by (name of charter organization). I attest that I have gone over the attached NY Forward Business Re-Opening Safety Plan and the BSA Restart Scouting Checklist with (insert name of COR), who is the appointed Chartered Organization Representative.

As the representative of the (insert Chartered Organization) they are giving their approval for our Unit to operate under these guidelines. I have included the Chartered Organization Representative on this email for their records.

Yours in Scouting,

Name

Committee Chair (Pack/Troop/Crew & Unit #)