

Unit Number: _____
Arrival Date & Time: _____
Departure Date & Time _____
Purpose of Trip: _____



Troop Safety Plan During COVID-19 Pandemic

The objective of this safety plan is to outline the safety measures that our Troop in conjunction with Allegheny Highlands Council (AHC) is implementing to decrease the risk of transmission of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) which causes COVID-19, in order to operate troop camping.

The plan is based on the AHC plan, the current CDC Guidelines, New York State Department of Health (DOH) recommendations for health and safety, and the *Field Guide for Camps on Implementation of CDC Guidance*.

Description of Camp

Our Troop will be utilizing Camp Merz. Campers will meet in the Camp Merz parking lot, parents will not be permitted to accompany the youth to the campsite. The troop is aware that we may have contact with the camp ranger, Wally, in order to perform a service project on site and will follow safe distancing protocols. Two deep leadership and the buddy system will be adhered to with the addition of the social distancing rule, 6 feet and/or masks when the distance cannot be maintained.

Our troop will be utilizing the _____ campsite at Camp Merz. Each youth will have their own tent set up and not allowed to enter any tent besides their own.

Camps are Merit Badge Based. All classes will be taught outside and have cover of a pavilion available if needed.

Scouts are encouraged to bring a backpack, day pack for hiking, water bottle, mess kit, masks and hand sanitizer and to keep their belongings with them or in their individual tent at all times.

The troop will be cooking and provide food to campers. Proper precautions will be adhered to as with any cooking by our youth with extra attention paid to the sanitation techniques. Each individual will have their own mess kit, water bottle, utensils and additional supplies will be on hand so there is no sharing. The troop has a food plan and duty roster for scouts to perform necessary duties as with any outing.

As you'll see below, AHC is proposing modifications to deal with some of the normal operations in order to mitigate the risk of COVID-19.

Facilities

The troop will utilize camp site pavilions and additional open areas within the camp as teaching areas. Our campsite has a latrine which will be cleaned daily.

The water system is on village water which is spring fed and will be used by the troop.

Response and Management of Possible, Probable, or Confirmed COVID-19 of a troop youth, adult leader or the ranger.

In the event that a scout youth or leader attending is diagnosed with a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19, the Scoutmaster will notify AHC so they can begin its mitigation plan. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster will handle all communications with parents/guardians.

In the event that a member of the troop or any household member of the youth is symptomatic or tests positive for COVID-19, AHC will implement the following process:

- Any youth who shows a symptom of COVID-19, will be isolated from other campers until a family member is able to come and pick them up.
- Symptoms include:
 - Fever of 100.4° F or higher
 - New or worsening cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Chills
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Nausea or vomiting
- Any youth whose household member is diagnosed with a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 will be isolated from other campers until a family member is able to come and pick them up.

The troop leaders will take the following steps:

- The troop will assign an adult to stay with the camper. This adult will don appropriate PPE, including, but not limited to a face covering and gloves. The youth will be given a face covering if they don't have one.
- The adult, wearing a face covering and gloves, will gather the camper's belongings, place them in a plastic bag, and give them to the camper. The adult will remove all PPE, wash hands, and return to their camp. They will take the rest of the campers outdoors.
- After the camper is picked up, the adult cleans and sanitizes the common area of the campsite and the restrooms for that Scout. If possible, the areas and equipment are not used for 24 hours before cleaning.
- In the case of personal illness, any camper is to remain home.

In the case of a camper's household member having a probable or positive case of COVID-19, the camper is to remain home for a minimum of 14 days, and until the last three days are symptom free or until the household member's test comes back negative for COVID-19.

- Since campouts are typically only three day/two night, this does extend into any session the camper may be registered for in coming weeks. In addition, the individual and members of their household must be symptom free for three consecutive days before returning to any troop session.

Our Troop in conjunction with AHC will use its daily wellness check records to contact trace any other staff, volunteer, or campers that the ill individual came into close contact with in the last 2 days at minimum and at most two weeks. This information will be available to the County Health Department to assist in their contact tracing. The Scoutmaster will notify those who have come into close contact with the individual that they may have been exposed to COVID-19. Affected employees and campers are asked to stay at home in isolation until they get tested and the test results are negative, or for a minimum of 14 days and until the last three days are symptom free. Campers and the Scoutmaster in the same unit may continue at camp for the outing if they wish, staying as isolated from others as possible.

If a scouter or household member of the scout has a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19, the Scoutmaster will make changes accordingly so that the affected Scout is as isolated as possible. This means that no other adult will join the group for activities, such as lunch supervision, and the Scout will not use any shared spaces. Leaders working with the affected Scout will maintain an increased sanitation schedule and physical distancing.

Communications Preparation

Communication

Before operating camps, AHC notifies the fire department and local health officials so they know the camp is operational.

Our Troop leadership will continue to adhere to all camp policies and procedures and will do so this year as well. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Youth Protection Training for all adults attending with the youth (YPT)
- Code of Conduct for AHC
- Child Safety Policy
- Emergency Procedures
- Basic First Aid, CPR, and AED training (summer staff only)
- Appropriate interactions with youth of different age levels
- Special Considerations of Campers (allergies or disabilities)

In addition, this year Our Troop will continuously stress and reinforce policies pertaining to COVID-19:

- Talk to campers about COVID-19 and address concerns as needed
- Proper Handwashing
- Cough etiquette
- COVID-19 specific information (information, symptoms, precautions, etc.)
- Physical Distancing
- PPE
- Sanitation procedures

Our Troop will abide with the hung posters related to hand washing, cough etiquette, and COVID-19 symptoms in restrooms, camps bases, and in the lunch area.

Our Troop will inform and refer parents to the information posted on the camp website for the latest information pertaining to camp and COVID-19.

Prior to camp

Our Troop will notify parents of all camp procedures, changes to usual camp activities, and schedules of drop-off or pick-up. The Scoutmaster will provide the list of precautions, changes to the procedures for dropping off and pickup from camp that AHC is taking throughout the summer, as well as any updates to those procedures.

Per the AHC directive, Our Troop will inform and seek consent from all parents to conduct daily, non-invasive health monitoring (asking questions, taking temperatures, if necessary) of campers. This includes a question of parents if anyone in the household or anyone with whom the child has had close contact has tested positive for or shown symptoms of COVID-19.

Leaders understands that new routines are hard for children, especially the idea of physical distancing and being proactive in their efforts.

Per AHC mandate, the Our Troop requests relevant health information for all campers upon registration. This year, AHC will specifically look for any conditions that may put a child at higher risk from complications of COVID-19. The Scoutmaster will call the parents of those children and have a personal discussion to assess the situation.

For higher-risk campers, AHC will request that parents consult their child's pediatrician about the risks of attending camp and get a recommendation from them. If the physician approves camp, AHC will require a written document from the medical office.

AHC requires that Our Troop also have parents sign a waiver acknowledging that they are sending their child to camp with other children in the midst of a pandemic. While the risk is fairly low, and AHC is mitigating risk wherever possible, there is the chance that their child could contract COVID-19 or another contagious disease while at camp. They will acknowledge that they will not hold neither Our Troop or AHC responsible if their child gets ill.

During Camp

Our Troop leadership will notify parents of any change to schedules and operations, especially in the instance that camp is dismissed early or a positive case of COVID-19 is confirmed among campers, staff, or essential volunteers.

Parents may reach out to the Scoutmaster at any time with concerns or questions.

Camper Communication

Communication with campers starts upon check-in. Our Troop will meet in the Camp Merz parking lot. Only those attending the campout will be allowed to continue on to the camp beyond the parking lot.

Orientation on the first day consists of going over Our Troop rules and expected behaviors, and this year is no different. Campers will take a tour of their designated areas and go over emergency procedures.

Campers are welcome to talk to leaders anytime about how they are feeling about everything. Compassion and conversation are key elements of mitigating the effects that restrictions are causing, and this is especially true for children.

Local and State Health Officials

Our Troop leadership will work in conjunction with AHC to share information with health officials about absenteeism, suspected cases, confirmed cases, or any other information they request.

Check-in on Day One

- EVERYONE is required to wear face coverings.
- Check-in will occur outdoors, under a carport if needed, with the Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster.
 - Families will answer a series of questions for an initial health screening.
 - Scoutmaster/designated leader will take the Scout's temperature and record it on the check-in sheet.
 - Families will remain in the parking lot as the scouts gather their belongings and proceed to the Frontier campsite.

In the event the parents need to see their Scout/drop something off, they will call the Scoutmaster and make arrangements to meet in the Camp Merz parking lot.

Daily Operations

- The pre- and post-camps will stay with the designated adults, for the duration. Campers will only use the restroom assigned and will maintain distance from other campers.
- AHC requires face coverings for EVERYONE.
- Scouts will avoid other groups and not come together for larger activities.
- Scouts will eat meals at staggered locations, at the same tables in the pavilion daily. All eating areas will be sanitized before and after lunch.
- Campers having to change clothes will use their own tent and avoid the restroom facilities when possible. This will, in turn, lower the amount that the changing areas are used. The showers will be available but will require sanitation after each use.

End of Campout

- Campers will continue to maintain social distancing as much as possible, utilizing their masks throughout the campout including preparation for leaving the campsite.
- Campers will pack all their own belongings with no assistance from leaders.

Camp Health Screenings

As mentioned earlier, Our Troop as prescribed by AHC always collects health information on campers that may be needed in case of emergency. This will be a standard BSA health form. This information is kept confidential with the leaders and returned at the end of the outing.

Upon arrival to camp on the first day, part of check-in will be to answer:

- Self-screen the camper for COVID-19 symptoms (fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, cough, shortness of breath, chills, diarrhea, fatigue, headache, muscle aches, nausea, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, vomiting) in the previous two weeks.
- Assess other household members for the same list of symptoms.
- If the camper has traveled outside the area in the last two weeks.
- If the camper has come into close contact with anyone diagnosed with, tested for probable positive case of, or quarantined for COVID-19.

Leaders will monitor campers during the campout, paying close attention to any child who says they aren't feeling well. If a child is suspected of having any contagious disease, he/she will be given a face covering, and separated from other campers. Camp Management will be notified IMMEDIATELY. If symptoms are severe or strongly indicative of COVID-19, the Scoutmaster will contact the parent or guardian and ask that the camper be taken home or to a physician's office. Depending on the symptoms and the physician's response, Per AHC, the Troop may ask the household to stay home until the risk of infectious disease has passed or until the test for COVID-19 returns negative. See the above section "Response and Management of Possible, Probable, or Confirmed COVID-19 in a Day Camper or Day Camp Counselor" for more details.

Leaders will collect a list of individuals that the sick camper came into contact with for any previous camp days up to one week. Leaders should also trace contacts for campers that become ill and were at camp the week prior. CDC guidance defines close contact as anyone person within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes. This is information that the health department will use for contact tracing if the individual does get confirmation of a COVID-19 diagnosis.

PPE

EVERYONE will wear face coverings at all times **and** maintain social distance if possible

Our Troop leaders recognize that young children often rely on facial cues to accurately assess communication and to feel reassured in certain cases. As such, leaders are permitted to remove their face covering if they feel it is necessary for them to effectively communicate to or comfort a camper with social distancing.

Leaders and scouts must have face coverings around their necks/on hand at all times even outdoors in order to use if another camper is within 6 feet of them.

Safeguards

AHC does employ and use volunteers that are high risk, with underlying health issues. Our Troop and AHC will make sure that those staff members are aware of where camp bases are, where campers are going to be during the week, and what equipment camps are using. Those at risk can then avoid those areas and that equipment until it is sanitized.

The Camp is closed to visitors and customers during Day Camp hours to eliminate any cross contamination. AHC staff will thoroughly sanitize spaces used for rentals before camps take place.

Camp Safety plan Outline

- Units will provide PPE and sanitation products for their attendees.
- Anyone entering the camp will be screened with a questioner and a temperature check. Logs will be maintained.
- Everyone will sanitize hands upon arrival.
- Face coverings will be worn at all times except while eating.
- Face coverings will be provided if needed.
- Distance of 6 feet or more will be maintained whenever possible
- Restrooms will be cleaned twice daily
- High touch surfaces will be cleaned 4 times per day and as needed.
- All classes will be outdoors or under a pavilion. No buildings will be used.
- NO non-essential visitors will be permitted.
- Restrooms will all be single use with hand washing or hand sanitizer.
- All program areas will have hand sanitizer or hand washing stations
- Troops will be assigned to campsites and will be eating all meals in their site.

Leader Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____