

Black Swamp Area Council  
Summer Camp COVID-19 Guidelines

The health of youth, leaders, and families while participating in Scouting programs remains the top priority for Black Swamp Area Council volunteer and staff leadership. As pandemic related restrictions continue to evolve, we continue to partner with our local health departments and review updated guidance from the State of Ohio, CDC, and National Council of the Boy Scouts of America. A key consideration in our safety guidelines is the fact that most Scouting participants are not age-eligible to receive the vaccine.

Effective June 1, 2021, the Black Swamp Area Council's COVID-19 Safety Protocols have been significantly updated and simplified. Detailed guidelines for Scout Summer Camp can be found below and on the FAQ pages.

***Will attendees be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19?***

There are no current plans by the BSA or Black Swamp Area Council to require a COVID-19 vaccine in 2021 for in-person activities or events. While not required, **we strongly encourage age-eligible staff and participants get the vaccine prior to attending summer camps.**

- ***Masks*** – If you are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 (2 weeks post final shot) you are not required to wear a mask at camp, whether indoors or outdoors. If you are not fully vaccinated, you will be required to wear a mask while indoors, or while you are in close proximity to others outdoors.
- ***Dining Hall*** – The dining hall will be used for meals. Tables will be assigned each meal and spaced for proper social distancing. Gardner Pavilion will be used as overflow eating space. Due to being indoors, and still within close proximity, we will ask campers to wear a mask into the dining hall. It can be removed while eating only.
- ***Merit Badge Classes*** – Classes conducted outdoors will NOT require a mask. Social distancing will still be practiced in these classes. If an outdoor class will require participants to be in close proximity, a mask will be needed. Indoor classes will require that masks be worn.
- ***Visitors*** – To ensure tracking and reporting protocols required by the local health department are followed, no visitors will be allowed in camp.
- ***Campfire Program*** – both camps plan to conduct campfire programs. Each camp will provide details for their own process.
- ***Traveling around camp*** – when social distancing can be made while traveling through camp, facial coverings can be removed. If traveling in a large group, we recommend masks be worn.
- ***Camp Building other than the Dining Hall*** – We ask that masks be worn inside the Trading Post, Administration Building, and Health Lodge.
- ***Daily Health Screenings*** – we will not be conducting daily health screenings. We ask that families monitor their Scout the week prior to camp. If the Scouts shows any symptoms of illness, the family should consider keeping them home. Upon arrival at camp, everyone will receive a medical screening. Any participants who begin to not feel well, especially loss of taste and smell, while at camp must report to the Health Lodge immediately.

***What protocols are in place to keep in-person camping safe this summer?***

First, units and families must monitor their personal situation and not let anyone displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or who has been around anyone with COVID-19 symptoms attend camp. Per BSA policy, all camp attendees receive an individual medical screening, including communicable disease screening, upon arrival at camp. These screenings apply to camp staff, participants, and adult leaders. Individuals

who do not pass this screening will be sent home. Additionally, a Scout is CLEAN! Keeping camp areas clean is everyone's responsibility. We are reviewing and updating our camp cleaning policies, with an emphasis on high traffic areas and shared equipment.

***Is there a BSA Medical Form extension this year?***

No. You must complete a physical prior to attending camp. All participants must fill out the BSA medical form, Part A, B, and C. All adults attending summer camp must:

- Be a registered member of the BSA
- Fill out the BSA medical form, Part A, B, and C
- Have current Youth Protection Training

***Will we have Family Night on Friday?***

One of our major concerns is tracking individuals if we do have a COVID-19 breakout. We will not be holding a Family Night at camp this summer.

***Can I bring my own tent?***

Yes! In fact, we encourage those who are interested and willing to camp in their own tent to do so.

***What are the tenting policies?***

We are allowing two scouts per tent if the same Scouts stay in that tent for the duration of the week. Scouts cannot change out tent mates.

***My troop is planning to bring more than 10 people to camp. Are we going to be able to camp in one campsite?***

Yes. There is no limit to the number of participants you can bring. We are asking Troops to split their participants into pods (patrols) of no more than 10. These pods will be asked to spread out within the confines of your campsite. In the evenings, or whenever the Troop members are back in campsites, we are asking the pods to stay within their own areas, and not mingle together. Adults and youth who are fully vaccinated can move between pods in the campsites.

***Can adults come and go from camp throughout the week?***

Yes. We recommend that adults try to limit the need to come and go from camp, but we understand that some leaders still have work responsibilities. We ask that when adults leave, they limit their activities to work, doctor appointments, and home. This limits the amount of people you encounter.

***Can scouts come and go from camp throughout the week?***

Scouts will be allowed to leave Camp for athletic competitions and doctor appointments. Otherwise, we ask that Scouts not come and go during their week of camp. If a Scout does leave camp, they need to limit their exposure to others as much as possible, and an early dismissal form must be complete and on file in the Camp office at the start of their camp week.

***If a scout or family decides not to attend camp for safety reasons, yet camp still goes on, will they receive a refund?***

Yes. A refund option will be available. A refund request form will need to be submitted. Black Swamp Area Council will review each request on a case-by-case basis, taking all factors into consideration. The regular Council refund policy will apply in this situation, in which \$75 of the total fee for camp is non-refundable, due to camp expenses that have already been incurred. Refunds will be returned to the Troop, who in turn will need to refund the family.