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# Cub Scout Packs, Scout BSA Troops and Venture Crews Safely Meeting AGAIN 😊



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**Information for unit Key 3's and Charter Partners**



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# **BSA's stance on Safe Scouting**

We want you to know that the safety of our youth, volunteers, staff, and employees is an important part of the Scouting experience. Youth develop traits of citizenship, character, fitness, and leadership during age-appropriate events when challenged to move beyond their normal comfort level and discover their abilities. This is appropriate when risks are identified and mitigated.

- **Commit yourself to creating a safe and healthy environment by:**
  - Knowing and executing the BSA program as contained in our publications
  - Planning tours, activities, and events with vigilance using the tools provided
  - Setting the example for safe behavior and equipment use during program
  - Engaging and educating all participants in discussions about hazards and risks
  - Reporting incidents in a timely manner



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# How we got here

- COVID 19 Hits USA – Infections rapidly increase in February
- “Stay at Home” order mandated in March
- “Safer at Home” Implemented April 27<sup>th</sup>
- “Protect your Neighbor” announced June 15<sup>th</sup> to be effective after July 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Protect your Neighbor predicated on certification by County
    - PPC area includes El Paso, Teller, Park, Elbert, Lincoln, Kit Carson, and Kiowa Counties.
  - Initial guidelines for restarting PPC meetings and activities published based on Protect your Neighbor
    - Increases in COVID infections combined with Counties electing to pursue variances to Safer at Home rather than Protect Your Neighbor certification negated initial timeline for implementation
  - All but one county in PPC area (Lincoln County) did not pursue Protect your Neighbor certification
    - Once implemented, units in that county may meet under Protect your Neighbor as originally published
- El Paso County numbers are still increasing (majority of PPC constituents)
  - Remaining in “Safer at Home” phase
  - Tightened limits on 4 August due to increases



# Difference – Safer at Home / Protect Your Neighbors

- Safer at Home
  - Everyone should minimize social interactions and stay home as much as possible
  - Most businesses are open at reduced capacity and should be following guidelines
  - Most activities are permitted with prevention precautions
  - Group size and group interaction are severely limited
- Protect your Neighbors
  - Protect Our Neighbors means that communities that meet certain criteria have less stringent restrictions than under Stay-At-Home or Safer-At-Home
  - Communities may permit activities at 50% of pre-pandemic capacity, with at least 6 feet between non-household members, and no more than 500 people in one setting at a time.
  - Communities that can demonstrate strong public health and healthcare systems -- paired with low virus levels -- should take on more control over their own reopening plans
  - Strong local public health and health care systems are the key to reopening the economy
  - Different communities will be at different phases, based on local conditions and capabilities



# Things you should know – before you meet

## **Accident & Sickness Policy** – *Provided to you by the Pikes Peak Council*

This is in effect. Please note that it caps out at \$7,500 per incident regardless of what the medical costs are



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# Things you should know – before you meet

## **General Liability Insurance**– *Provided to you by the National Office, BSA & The Pikes Peak Council*

- This is a gray area
- No one is quite sure what insurance coverage is in place for COVID-19 related cases
- Total coverage may be limited to each individuals personal coverage and the coverage where units meet
  - This is a factor chartering organizations must take under consideration when units meet at their location/facilities

*While your chances of facing an injury lawsuit for contributing to the potential spread of coronavirus are slim-to-none, it's a different story when it comes to violating laws meant to protect the public.*

*If you fail to comply with a government-issued order or instruction related to the current coronavirus pandemic, you could face any number of civil or criminal penalties.*

## **Nolo.com - Legal encyclopedia**

**NOTE:** From a liability stand-point, this applies whether or not you agree with the legality or appropriateness of orders or mandates.



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**OKAY – We understand the risks - NOW CAN WE MEET?**

**The answer is yes, but...**



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# OKAY – We understand the risks - NOW CAN WE MEET?

- Units must complete certification requirements
- You must follow all rules of the State of Colorado and the county where your unit meets or conducts activities
- You must be prepared to adjust to changing state or county guidance
  - Counties can independently implement differing guidance
- Youth protection guidelines take precedence – avoid conflicts in planning
- You must be aware of the potential consequences if you bend or ignore the rules.
- Your unit must implement proper screening as a means to minimize exposure
- You must understand that both Cub Scout/Scouts BSA/Venturing age youth and even adults will struggle with 6 feet social distancing
- You must utilize the social distancing calculator to determine your indoor capacity in order to maintain proper distancing...the separation required is much more than 6 feet static separation
- You must understand the proper way to wear a mask and enforce it with all leaders, parents and Scouts!
- You must understand proper hygiene practices
  - Includes food preparation, service and cleanup if an element of the program
- Review and incorporate PPE requirements for those treating ill individuals (day or overnight events)
- Group size limits – Den/Patrol versus unit level activities
  - Outdoor activities may be held with up to 25 people with working groups (e.g. patrols or den) of 10 Scouts including adults
  - Indoor activities should be limited to groups (patrols/dens) of 10 Scouts (includes adults) with no interaction between groups
  - Only family units are allowed to break the 6 foot distancing



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# Ideas for running a in-person meeting

- Outdoor meetings are by far the best venue
  - Den & Patrol meetings only – no Pack or Troop size gatherings
    - Dens/patrols can meet at the same time, but no close proximity interaction should occur between groups
    - Groups should not handle the same materials or occupy the same space that other groups even at different times unless sanitization has been completed
- Groups no larger than 10 – including adults
- Keep meetings to 45 minutes or less
- No singing, scout cheers (yelling) – at least 10 feet separation if singing, yelling or energetic activity must occur
- No handshaking / fist bumps / hugging etc.
- No games or events where Scouts touch each other or a common object
- Have hand washing stations close and/or hand sanitizer available
  - Ensure their frequent use
- Regularly clean/sanitize objects and surfaces that are touched by participants
- Once the meeting is over, encourage participants to leave rather than hang around and socialize
- Minimize non-participant parents/guardians and do not allow visitors or observers



# Ideas for running overnight activities

## Meeting ideas PLUS

- Re-emphasis on patrols/groups no larger than 10 – including adults
  - No interaction amongst multiple patrols/groups
- Plan for individual tents
  - Parent/guardian (family) units may share tents
- Maximize “walking” meals e.g. like Philmont breakfast/lunch, but individually packaged
  - Preferably prepared and packed by each individual Scout, Venturer or adult
- Consider individual vice patrol cooking
  - Backpack style meals, small stove or fire preparation
  - May require more advanced planning, training, and demonstration
  - May require more or individual cleaning resources and additional oversight for proper sanitization
- Avoid use of common materials between patrols/groups
  - May require more planning and resources
  - If not possible, properly sanitize between patrols/groups
- Avoid indoor group lodging venues (outing in Scouting)
- Campfire programs: At least 10 feet separation between if singing, yelling or energetic activity must occur.
  - Avoid if possible



**Nothing can substitute for sound  
judgement**

**Keep the safety and well being of your Scouts  
and Adults in mind at all times**

**Questions**



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