



SCOUTING MEETING GUIDE FOR COVID-19 Oregon Units

**Tips and information to keep your pack, troop,
crew, post, or ship running safely and effectively**

Updated January 27th, 2021

Note: Washington's new guidelines prevent any activity with more than two families. We are working with authorities for options.

Have questions about COVID-19 related safety protocols?

Visit cpcbsa.org/covid, or contact us at info@cpcbsa.org



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
CASCADE PACIFIC COUNCIL



In Person Meetings Can Happen

The State of Oregon's Guidelines allow youth meetings in person for Scouts BSA youth ages 11-18 (or older for Crews, Posts, and Ships) under the "Youth Programs Guidelines."

Cub Scouts still must follow the Social Gathering Guidelines. The "Outdoor Social Gatherings" guidelines are the most flexible for meeting in person.

The COVID Task Force reviewed Oregon guidelines carefully, and we believe the following requirements meet these rules and BSA policies.

The State of Oregon can change these guidelines at any time. We will update this guide as needed if requirements change.

Meeting and outing guidelines are broken into tiers of risk. Units should evaluate which tier matches their comfort level for participation in Scouting activities:

- Tier 1: No Risk (Meeting Virtually)**
 - Tier 2: Low Risk (Meeting Outdoors)**
 - Tier 3: Some Risk (Meeting Indoors)**
- ## **Camping Guidelines**

Each Tier includes the following details:

1. Meeting Plan and Approval
2. Cohort Size
3. Sanitization Requirements
4. Social Distancing Guidelines
5. Meeting space constraints
6. Screening Strategy
7. Attendance gathering
8. Participation agreements
9. Infection response and communication

If you have any questions, email Todd.McDonald@Scouting.org for guidance. Todd is the Director of Program and Staff Advisor to the COVID Taskforce.



TIER 1: No Risk: Meeting Virtually

My unit isn't meeting in person until the pandemic is over (or have families who aren't comfortable meeting).

- Ask your families what they want to get from Scouting long term, not just in the 2020-21 school year. Focus on the future.
- Let them know it's ok to **Scout lightly** during this time. Often families will feel they need to be all in or all out. This is not the case. Keeping Scouts even minimally engaged will make it easier to re-launch in-person meetings in the future.
- Establish connection with other Scouting families, even on Zoom, but do so by den or patrol. Smaller meetings are easier and have higher impact.
- Use the pre-planned 8 weeks series of digital Cub Scout meetings.
- Host **family-based community service** projects and share by social media. Food drives, weeding, and trash clean-ups are great ideas. Invite your unit to participate in CPC events this fall as a family.
- Continue to host regular committee and parent meetings. Communication is key to a strong re-start.
- Do **socially distant outdoor activities**. These could be hikes, bike rides or backyard campfires or campouts.
- **Allow for Buddy Scouting**. Current Guidelines state that gatherings of up to two families and 6 people can be done. This means that you can divide up activities in your den/patrol into buddy groups.

Have questions about COVID-19 related safety protocols? Visit



TIER 2: Low Risk: Meeting Outdoors

- All activities will be held **outdoors**
- **Meeting plan** developed to ensure arrival, activity, and departure procedure meet state guidelines. Plans approved by Charter Org and meeting space owner.
- **High risk individuals** should consider the safety of attendance of any social activity.
- **Cohorts** in groups of 10 or less. No mixing of cohorts. Cub Scout Dens must meet Phase Outdoor Social Gathering capacity.
- Limit number in cohorts to meet **75 sqft per person**.
- Everyone must **wear a mask** following state guidelines.
- Plan activities that allow physical distancing.
- **Health screening** conducted upon arrival.
- **Restrict participation** for anyone who has Covid-like symptoms of illness or who has been exposed for a minimum of 10 days. Restrict participation for 14 days after a positive test.
- **Take attendance** and keep records for 6 weeks.
- **Sanitize: Cleanse hands** frequently, hand wash with soap and water or 60% alcohol. Clean and sanitize high touch surfaces (1000 ppm bleach).
- Have signed agreements by parents and youth.
- One person at a time in restrooms.
- **Report all exposures** or potential exposures to the council office and your county health department.
- These rules apply to day hikes or other outdoor outings. Units must follow carpool guidelines.



TIER 3: Some Risk: Meeting Indoors

- **Meeting plan** developed to ensure arrival, activity, and departure procedure meet state guidelines. Plans approved by Charter Org and meeting space owner.
- **High risk individuals** should consider the safety of attendance of any social activity.
- **Cohorts/patrols** in group of 10 or less. No mixing of cohorts and must have at least 1 leader if in sight of other leaders. **Cub Scout Dens** must follow phase guidelines 6 people from two families.
- Limit number in cohorts to meet **35 sqft per person**.
- Cohorts must be assigned their **own area** and stay within that area during the meeting. You can rotate spaces if areas are sanitized before new cohort occupies the space.
- If activities are outside, follow outdoor meeting guidelines.
- Everyone must **wear a mask** following state guidelines.
- **Health screening** upon arrival.
- **Restrict participation** for anyone who has Covid-like symptoms of illness or who has been exposed for a minimum of 10 days. Restrict participation for 14 days after a positive test.
- One person at a time in restrooms.
- **Take attendance** and keep records for 6 weeks.
- **Sanitize: Cleanse hands** frequently, hand wash with soap and water or 60% alcohol. Clean and sanitize **high touch surfaces** (1000 ppm bleach).
- Signed agreements by parents and youth.
- Parents should drop off and not stay at meeting.
- **Report all exposures** or potential exposures to the council office and to the County Health Dept.



Overnight Outings.

- **High risk individuals** should consider the safety of attendance of any Scouting activity.
- **Cohort size** is based on the county phase guidelines for outdoor social gatherings of where you are camping. (Cubs and SBSA+)
- Carpool must be done by cohorts and follow **carpool guidelines**.
- Everyone must **wear a mask following state guidelines**.
- Plan activities that allow **physical distancing**.
- **Health screening** upon arrival. (Before Carpooling)
- **Restrict participation** for anyone who has Covid-like symptoms of illness or who has been exposed for a minimum of 10 days. Restrict participation for 14 days after a positive test.
- **Take attendance** and keep records for 6 weeks.
- Sanitize: **Cleanse hands** frequently, hand wash with soap and water or 60% alcohol. Clean and sanitize high touch surfaces (1000 ppm bleach).
- Signed agreements by parents and youth.
- One person at a time in restrooms.
- One person per tent.
- Dining: By Cohort only. Whenever possible social distance, sanitize and wear a mask.
- **Report all exposures** or potential exposures to the council office and your county health department.



Cub Scout Specific Guidelines

The State of Oregon does not have Youth Program guidelines for ages under 11. However, there is room for in person outdoor activities based on the status of the county the activity is held.

- All indoor activities for Cub Scouts are limited to groups of no more than two households
- Outdoor activities group sizes change depending on the county level. High Risk: 8 people, Moderate Risk: 10 people, Low Risk 12 people. You can find your counties level on <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>.
- Camping Standards follow these same guides. You must have BALOO training to camp outside of our Camp Properties.
- You can do buddy Scouting. This means divide your program between two household buddy pairs. Den leader still directs the program, youth still get the socialization. This can happen indoors or outdoors.
- Facemask and social distancing is required between household groups but parent and children from the same household do not need to follow face mask and social distancing guidelines.
- Cub Scouts will need to follow the same guidelines for carpooling, meeting space, health screening, and reporting as listed above.



Tips for running a Scout meeting from home

REMEMBER TO FOLLOW YPT guidelines for digital communication while conducting online activities, and include registered adults in all meetings and breakout meetings

BE IN UNIFORM



USE THIS TIME TO GET EVERYONE UP TO DATE ON THEIR CYBERCHIP



CREATE INTERACTIVE AND FUN MEETINGS

Use apps like Kahoot! to create quizzes and trivia games within your meetings



INVITE SPECIAL GUESTS

Whether down the street or across the country, digital meetings mean you can easily invite a special guest to join your meeting, no matter where they are from.



HAVE THE YOUTH MAKE CONTENT

Invite the youth leaders to make video content and to teach skills online as best they can with the EDGE method



TAKE A MINUTE TO CHECK ON EACH SCOUT IN THE MEETING

Go around and check on all the scouts to see how they are doing. In a large troop, this can be done in the patrol breakouts



HAVE AN OPENING AND CLOSING

A simple flag ceremony is a great way to start a meeting.

A good closing could be as simple as a review of the subjects covered in the meeting



DO A VIRTUAL TOUR

Virtual tours are a good way to make a meeting interesting and engaging. If able, do one live, or use a virtual tour that is already online



USE BREAKOUT ROOMS

Use breakout rooms for patrol meetings, and provide specific tasks for those meetings. Just like in a regular meeting.



GIVE SCOUTS SHARING OPPORTUNITIES

Having scouts share what they have been working on makes the meeting more interactive and engaging



FOCUS ON BADGES AND CHALLENGES THAT CAN BE DONE FROM HOME

There are almost 50 merit badges and tons of good turns that can all still be done without needing to leave home





STATE & LOCAL GUIDELINES

STATE AND LOCAL GUIDELINES

When planning to engage in any sort of activity it is important to ensure that you are following all state and local guidelines. In the event these guidelines conflict, the stricter regulation is the one that needs to be followed.

Contact your Chartered Organization to learn what requirements they have in place. Even if your unit is not planning to meet at your Chartered Organization, you must follow their guidelines as well.

Current Oregon Guidelines: <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>

Sector Risk Level Guidance Chart

Activities	Lower Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	Extreme Risk
Social and At-Home Gathering Size — Indoor BSA: Indoor Den Meeting Limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum 10 people Recommended limit: 4 households 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum 8 people Recommended limit: 2 households 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum 6 people Recommended limit: 2 households 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum 6 people Recommended limit: 2 households
Social and At-Home Gathering Size — Outdoor BSA: This is also the limit to cohort size for camping and for den meeting size	Maximum 12 people	Maximum 10 people	Maximum 8 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum 6 people Recommended limit: 2 households
Outdoor Recreation and Fitness Establishments (includes outdoor gyms, outdoor fitness organizations, outdoor K-12 Sports, outdoor collegiate sports, outdoor recreational sports, outdoor pools, outdoor parks and hiking trails**, outdoor campgrounds**)	Maximum 300 people	Maximum 150 people	Maximum 75 people	Maximum 50 people

Current Washington Guidelines: <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/>

Healthy Washington - Roadmap to Recovery

Activities	Phase 1	Phase 2
Social and At-Home Gathering Size — Indoor	Prohibited	Max of 5 people from outside your household, limit 2 households
Social and At-Home Gathering Size — Outdoor	Max of 10 people from outside your household, limit 2 households	Max of 15 people from outside your household, limit 2 households



HOW TO RECRUIT

DIGITAL JOINING MEETING

Reach out to your local Scouting professional to organize a virtual recruitment event.

NEXTDOOR/FACEBOOK

Advertise Scouting on Next Door, using the template below to write your post: Subject: Socially distanced, safe fun & adventure for kids/teens

Copy: After-school activities are cancelled, but not Scouting! Join us for socially distanced & outdoor fun! Our Scout (troop/pack) is still enjoying hands-on activities like (first aid, geocaching, fire-building and camp cooking)! Join us (Tuesday) nights at (7 p.m.) for the adventure!

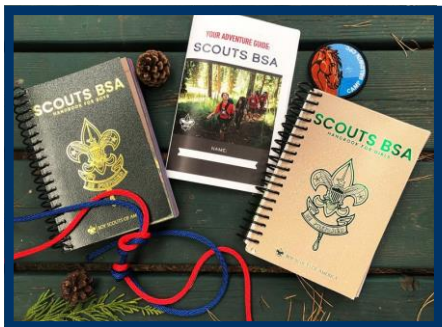
When:

Where:

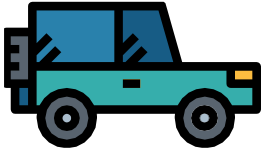
Contact: You can even get a FREE Scouting sample kit for your interested Scout sent right to your door! Order your free kit at www.cpcbsa.org/grit

FREE ADVENTURE KITS!

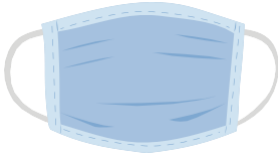
Parents of kids ages 5-17 choose Scouting over other extracurricular activities because they want their kids to grow in confidence, become goal-getters, and have passion for the outdoors. Order your FREE Adventure Kit today! www.cpcbsa.org/grit



HOW TO CARPOOL



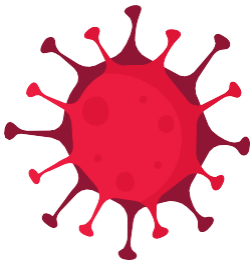
**RIDE WITHIN YOUR COHORT ONLY.
VENTILATE THE CAR.**



**WEAR A MASK, KEEP IT ON!
Cover coughs and sneezes.**



**REDUCE # OF PEOPLE IN VEHICLE,
EVERYONE SIT 3FT APART FROM
NON-HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS.
LIMIT STOPS.**

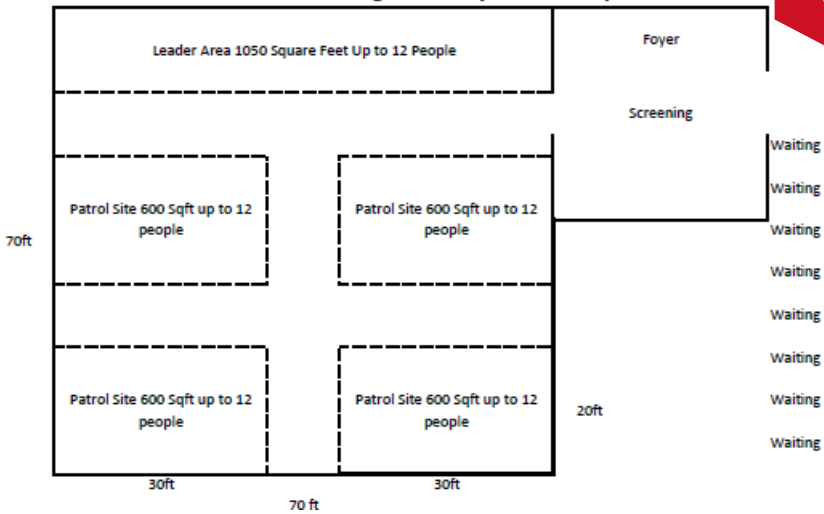


STAY HOME IF YOU HAVE SYMPTONS

Our guide shows how to significantly mitigate risks, but each family needs to evaluate their risk tolerance prior to participating in any activity outside their home.



Indoor Meeting Plan Layout Example



Meeting Plan Example

Capacity: We will cohort with up to 4 patrols of 10 youth. Each Patrol will have up to 3 Adults. Leader area will have a leader cohort of up to 10 adults. Cohorts will stay within their area for meeting and use neutral space to move in and out of the room. Building owner has not updated ventilation so we will keep windows open to allow fresh air.

Check-In Screening: Scouts and adults will wait their turn to enter in social distant spots from each other outside. We will check in with yes or no if they have any checklist issues. Non leader parents will not enter the building but may meet briefly after check-in with leadership in the foyer.

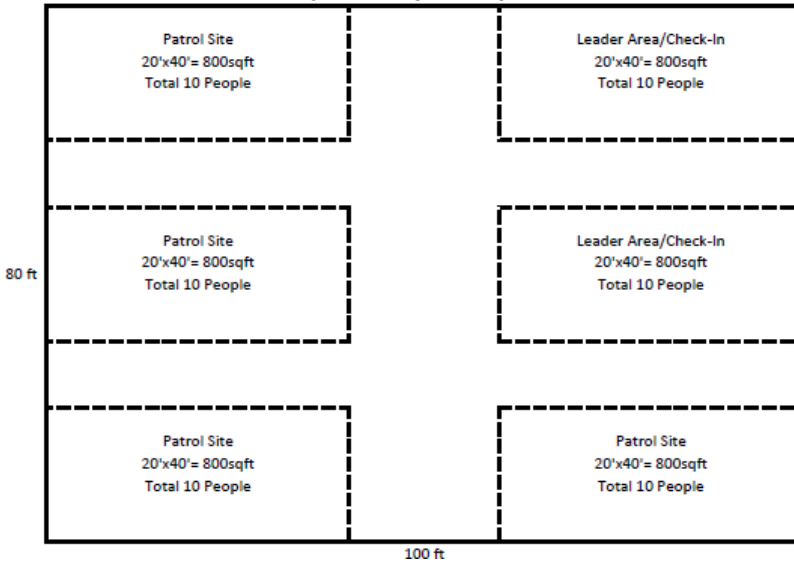
Sanitize: Leadership will arrive early and sanitize tables, chairs, railings, and door handles with 1000ppm bleach solution. We will have alcohol hand sanitizer at check in and at each cohort location. We will sanitize any shared Face Mask: Everyone will wear face masks.

Social Distancing: Chairs and activity set up will be done to keep people separated by 6 ft to the best of our ability.

Communication: Parents and Scouts will sign an agreement to our meeting plan to ensure clear understanding and acceptance. We will report any infection or potential exposure to both The Scout Council and the local Health Dept. **equipment between us**



Outdoor Meeting Example
Example: Elementary School Play Structure



Meeting Plan Example

Capacity: We will cohort with up to 5 patrols of 8 youth. Each Patrol will have up to 2 Adults. Leader area will have a leader cohort of up to 10 adults. Cohorts will stay within their area for meeting and use neutral space to move in and out of the room. Building owner has not updated ventilation so we will keep windows open to allow fresh air.

Check-In Screening: Scouts and adults will wait their turn to check in outside of covered structure. We will check in with yes or no if they have any checklist issues. Non leader parents will not enter the building but may meet briefly after check-in with leadership in the foyer.

Sanitize: Leadership will arrive early and sanitize tables with 1000ppm bleach solution. Scouts will bring their own chairs. We will have alcohol hand sanitizer at check in and at each cohort location. We will sanitize any shared equipment between use.



Meeting Agreement Example:

The following is an agreement between the Leadership of Unit [XXX], our Scouts, and families to ensure we are all aware of the dangers of COVID-19 and our responsibility to keep everyone safe.

Family & Scouts Agreement

We will be educated

We have reviewed the information provided by the CDC on <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>

- a. We understand the risks of COVID-19
- b. We understand how it is spread
- c. We are aware if we are in an at-risk group and used the information to determine the best ways we may participate in Scouting.
- d. We understand the symptoms of COVID-19 and will look out for **those symptoms in our family before engaging in social activities.**

We will screen our family prior to participation.

- a. We will make sure we do not participate in any Scouting activities if we feel sick.
- b. If we have any COVID symptoms we will share that with leadership prior to participating in a Scouting activity.
- c. We will report any exposure, COVID Infection, or possible infection of our family to unit leadership.

We will make sure we come prepared with a mask to all Scouting activities and prepared to follow all activity guidelines.

Unit Leadership Agrees

We will ensure we meet all State, Scouting and Meeting Space Guidelines for every activity.

- We will make sure that our space is sanitized, before and during the activities.
- We will ensure everyone wears a mask and is socially distant throughout all activities.
- We will conduct screenings of each person participating in any Scouting Activity.
- We will communicate to our families often of our activities, mitigation requirements, and needs from parents.
- We will endeavor to work within these guidelines to ensure a safe, fun, and impactful Scouting experience.



FIND HELP

cpcbsa.org/covid

Check here for continuous updates on COVID-19 response in CPC

cpcbsa.org/adventures/patrol-cohort-camping/

Check here for detailed information on camping

scouting.org/scoutingathome

At home fun and learning for Scouting Families, and non-Scouting families!

<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le3461.pdf>

Oregon State Phase Overview Chart

<https://coronavirus.oregon.gov/Pages/living-with-covid-19.aspx#currentrisklevelbycountymap>

Oregon State Phase Status

<https://coronavirus.oregon.gov/Pages/living-with-covid-19.aspx#currentrisklevelbycountymap>

Oregon State Youth Programs Descriptions.

(Note: This is provided as a reference. The COVID task force ensured that all policies meet these requirements.)