

Marin Council Summer Camps Status for Marin Sierra and Tamarancho

Updated - April 30, 2020

The information below reflects modifications that have been made to Marin County Shelter at Home orders that are in effect through May 2020. As further updates are received, we will update this document.

The Marin Council is preparing for camp this summer – all camps. We are recruiting and hiring staff; we are planning our program; and we are making camp improvements. We are also preparing for heightened health screenings, reviewing accommodations for distancing, and increasing hygiene stations. The situation is fluid and depends on the steps all of us make in controlling the spread of the coronavirus and the directives that public health officials deem necessary at the time.

Under the current Marin County Department of Health and Human Services directive, we anticipate we would be able to operate our Camp Tamarancho summer programs, NYLT & Cub Day Camp. Based on the current guidance, we would need to modify den and patrol size as well as segregate those dens and patrols along with assigned staff from one another. Regardless, we see this as a very positive step in the right direction for Tamarancho.

We continue to wait for guidance from Nevada County as it pertains to Camp Marin Sierra. As we always have, we will coordinate with our local health departments, following their lead in delivering a safe camping program for your children, our Scouts.

Our goal continues to be an enriching and safe summer at camp for your Scout; that's what we are preparing for. We would like you to be prepared as well and feel you should know the following:

1. The situation is evolving: The impact we make in combatting COVID-19 is often measured in two-week increments, making it difficult to predict where we will stand in late June, July, or August. As we receive guidance from either Marin or Nevada County Health Departments we will measure how that guidance impacts summer camp and will not arbitrarily close our camps on speculation. This may mean we have to make some decisions on short notice and ask for your understanding.
2. We will value safety: Marin Council staff works closely with our Risk Management Committee which includes health care professionals. Our decisions always consider the safety of our Scouts, volunteers, and camp staff. We will not relax our standards in our drive to conduct camp because we know that a safe camp and a fun camp are not mutually exclusive. We ask our

Scouting families and Scouts to abide by all safety standards and never send an ill Scout to camp and to be obedient in their protection of the public health.

3. Camp will be different this year: Physical distancing, limitations of participants, increased health screenings, and PPE have become part of our life this spring and these will undoubtedly be a part of camp. You should expect that certain programs will be modified to decrease physical proximity. We will need to limit participants in camp and also in program areas. We will routinely conduct temperature checks including prior to camp pre-checks. Depending on the camp, we will likely modify food service so units are eating in campsites as opposed to central dining and reconfigure or eliminate camp-wide assemblies. For Tamarancho we may need to re-evaluate or limit ridership for bus service.

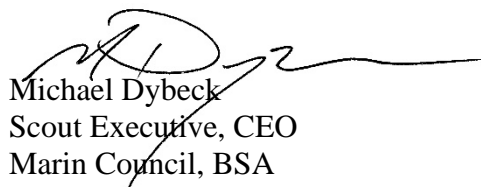
4. We may ask for you to be even more flexible: It will likely be necessary that in order to operate camps, we need to limit the number of campers in any given week. We may need to ask units or campers to switch which sessions of camp they attend. While we will first ask for cooperation for voluntary changes, should that not meet our safety requirements, we will reassign units or campers based on a “first come, first served” basis. For those that are unable to accommodate a mandated change to their schedules, we will offer a credit or refund of fees.

5. We will be fair: If by order of public health officials, we are not able to conduct our camps, we will offer units or campers either a full refund or a future credit for camp with a 2020 price lock; those choosing a credit will be exempt from any 2021 fee increases. For circumstances not related to COVID-19, our standard refund policies will still apply.

6. We will continue to Be Prepared!: Should it be necessary to modify our summer camp program we will endeavor to offer alternatives to Scouts and families. While we know that nothing can replace a week at camp, we will do our best to provide ways to keep Scouts engaged during the summer.

The volunteers and staff that conduct Marin Council summer camp programs continue to hope for the best when it comes to the summer of 2020. Until a final decision is reached on the status of camps this summer, we ask for your patience and commit to keeping you informed. We will continue getting ready for a great 2020 camping season because we know this may be the summer that our kids need camp the most.

Yours in Scouting,


Michael Dybeck
Scout Executive, CEO
Marin Council, BSA

P.S. Feel free to reach out to me or a member of the Marin Council staff at anytime when it comes to camp. We are happy to answer your questions and open to your input.