



Updated: June 22, 2020

Dear Marin Council Scouting Volunteers and Families,

As progress continues in limiting the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), local, state, and federal agencies have updated their guidance related to what members of the public can do to protect themselves as well as steps we can all take to attempt to mitigate the impact this virus will have on society as a whole. We would ask all our Marin Council families to be aware of those governmental advisories and to please follow them. Council leadership is following the guidance of our local and state health departments.

Effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020, the health departments from the six Bay Area counties instructed residents to shelter in place. The basic Shelter in Place directive continues in place in Marin County until rescinded.

There has been recent lightening of restricting for many activities and businesses. The following update covers current guidelines as it pertains to Scouting and the Marin Council in the areas of:

- **Scouting Meetings and Activities**
- **Marin Council Office and Trading Post**
- **Use of Camp Tamarancho & Camp Marin Sierra**
- **Fall 2020 Council Activities**

Details of shelter in place orders can be found on Marin County Health and Human Services website: <https://www.marinhhs.org/>. Details regarding reopening of businesses and activities in Marin County can be found at: <https://marinrecovers.com/>.

Scouting Meetings and Activities:

Thanks to the diligence of our community, great progress has been made and we are seeing a controlled reopening of many businesses in Marin. Due to that progress, the Shelter in Place directive has been slightly expanded to Social Bubbles. It is important to recognize that slightly expanded Social Bubbles may not necessarily equate to resume all Scouting meetings and activities.

What is a Social Bubble?

- A stable consistent group of 12 people or less. This would include all members of a household whether they actively participate in gatherings of that specific bubble or not.
- Bubbles must remain stable for a three-week period of time before an individual may form a new bubble. If a person participates in a weekend activity as part of a Social Bubble, they would need to wait three weeks before engaging with individuals outside of that Social Bubble.
- Youth are allowed to participate in one additional Social Bubble concurrently in order to allow for extracurricular activities. That additional Social Bubble is limited to no more than 12 members.
- Gatherings of these expanded Social Bubbles are allowed for outdoor activities only and proper distancing as well as the wearing of facemasks for those over 12 is required.

What do Social Bubbles Mean for Scouting in Marin?

- With the implementation of Social Bubbles, some limited Scouting meetings and activities can begin again. All meetings and activities would need to take place outdoors.
- Due to the size limitations of 12 people in a Social Bubble, it is advised that activities be limited to Den or Patrol activities only. Smaller units may be able to function within the size limitations of a Social Bubble.
- Adults are not permitted an additional Social Bubble so volunteers and parents should adhere to Health Department guidelines and may need to limit their direct involvement to remain compliant.
- Eagle Projects can now resume. Project planners need to follow Social Bubble guidelines and may find it necessary to divide aspects of the project into distinct groups that are managed indirectly.
- Participants in Scouting Activities must be in good health and activity leaders are to follow Marin Council guidelines for resuming face to face meetings which will include a health screen and collecting participant rosters.

Since Social Bubbles are still limiting a full return to Scouting:

- Full Scouting unit meetings like Troop or Pack meetings should continue to meet “virtually” through Zoom or other platforms.
- Unit Committee Meetings should continue to be conducted virtually to allow volunteers to reserve their “bubble room” for other activities. Board of Reviews, planning meetings, etc. should follow the same recommendation.
- Individual Scouts should continue to work on advancement either with a parent or online with a leader or merit badge counselor.

Regardless of whether activities are face to face or online, Youth Protection Guidelines are to be adhered to; special attention should be paid to balancing the limitations on the number of individuals in Social Bubble with BSA requirements of Two-Deep leadership and Buddy System.

Marin Council Offices and Trading Post:

- The Marin Council offices are now open to the public. We have temporarily limited our public office hours to Monday-Friday from 9 AM to 3 PM.
- Visitors must wear a mask and will have their temperature taken upon entry.
- We will be staggering staff physically working in the office; if you need to see a specific staff member it is suggested you schedule an appointment.
- Whenever possible, business should be conducted over phone or email.
- The Trading Post is open for “inside retail sales” Monday through Friday, 10 AM to 2:30 PM. Prepaid orders may be picked up after hours.
- It is recommended large orders be placed in advance by calling 415-454-1081 or emailing **both** mvasser@boyscouts-marin.org and cmueller@boyscouts-marin.org.
- Customers must wear facemasks and will be asked to sanitize their hands when entering as well as have their temperature taken. When visiting please adhere to designated physical distancing floor markings.
- Clothing cannot be tried on before purchase.

Use of Camp Tamarancho:

- Beginning July 6, 2020, we will be making Camp Tamarancho campgrounds available for Marin Council Scouting families. Camping will be limited to family groups and the maximum stay will be 3 days / 2 nights. Reservations must be made in advance and space will be limited; there will be a per person fee for overnight camping. (We will not be accepting reservations until 6/29/2020 as formal guidelines are not yet released.)
- Scouting Families participating in camping at Marin Council camps will need to adhere to all policies and procedures which may include all adults completing Youth Protection Training. (Camping guidelines will be provided under separate cover.)
- Beginning June 29, 2020, Scouting “Social Bubbles” may now enjoy Camp Tamarancho for day use which might include hiking or other outdoor activities. Reservations for day use must be made in advance with the Marin Council Office. Groups are limited to no more than 12 and must check in upon arrival with the camp ranger for temperature screening and roster submission.
- While our families are able to enjoy Tamarancho for hiking and nature-based program, facilities such as shooting sports ranges and aquatics will not be available for use at this time. Full descriptions of restrictions related to day use of camp will be provided to those interested in visiting camp.

Use of Camp Marin Sierra:

- As of 6/22/2020, Nevada County is strongly discouraging the crossing of county lines to partake in recreational activities. As a result of that directive, we are still not able to offer Marin Sierra as a destination to our Scouting families. We hope that situation will change in the coming month.

Future 2020 Council Activities:

- We continue to monitor state and local health department guidelines related to upcoming activities such as Webelos Wood, Family Fiesta, etc. As the summer progresses and based on health department regulations we will advise our families of the status of those events. Until that time, we ask for your patience.
- We do believe the announcement that schools will return to classroom instructions provides an opportunity in late August or early September for many of our council events to return.

We are aware that the protracted nature of SIP and disappointment regarding cancelling camps and not being able to meet as Scouting units has been extremely difficult. But we also could not be more proud of our Scouts and Scouters who are Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind & **Obedient**. The steps taken and the sacrifices made have limited the transmission of COVID-19, reducing its spread and saving lives.

For more information:

Marin Council – Michael Dybeck at 415-454-1081

California Department of Public Health: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/>

Marin County Health and Human Services: <https://www.marinhhs.org/>