



Frequently Asked Questions

Marin County 8/20/2020 COVID-19 Guidelines related to Youth Programs

Effective August 20, 2020, Marin County has revised guidelines related to Organized Youth Programs. This revised guidance incorporates elements that had been previously allowed under Youth Summer Program Guidelines and Youth Social Bubble Guidelines. The full text of current regulations related to these guidelines can be found at www.marinrecovers.org. The following FAQ's are provided to help you navigate those changes in regard to Scouting programs. Please be aware that due to the fluid nature of this health crisis it is possible these guidelines will change over time.

Are Scouting meetings and activities allowed?

Yes. Under revised Marin County guidelines for Youth Programs, organized youth programs such as Scouting are permitted in stable groups of 15 youth or less.

What does a “stable group” mean?

A stable group means the same youth, not more than 15, that interact in Scouting activities. For Packs that would likely equate to a den, for troops a patrol. The stable group is to remain siloed and not interact with other 15-member groups. For example: A Webelos den can hold den meetings, go hiking, conduct service projects, even go camping, but is not to intermingle with another siloed group such as the Bear Den. This would mean that while den and patrols might hold meetings and activities, Packs and Troops would need to continue larger meetings virtually.

Can smaller dens or patrols be combined?

As long as the stable group limit of 15 youth is not exceeded, yes as long as those groupings remain stable for a three-week period of time. For example: The Fox Patrol and the Eagle Patrol are planning a joint service project to be held in two weeks' time. For the two weeks leading up to the service project members of those patrols should not participate in meeting or activities conducted by other patrols in their troop. For the week following the service project, members of those two patrols should continue to remain siloed from the other patrols in the troop. After the three week stable period has passed, the two patrols might regroup and the Fox Patrol could plan a camping trip with the Rattlesnake Patrol, as long as the Rattlesnake patrol has fulfilled the same three week stable period in keeping with guidelines.

Do adult volunteers count as part of the 15-member quota?

No, adult volunteers are considered “personnel” as part of these guidelines and therefore exist outside of the size limitation of 15 youth. However, while not counted as part of the 15-member limit, adult volunteers are to be solely dedicated to a stable group and avoid as much as possible interacting with another group. For Cub Scout Packs this is easily accomplished in that Den Leaders work exclusively with their own dens. For Troops, it is recommended that adult volunteers be assigned to work exclusively with set patrols so that their interaction remains stable.

Do BSA Youth Protection Guidelines still apply?

Yes. All BSA Youth Protection Policies are still in effect whether activities are conducted face to face or virtually. Please keep in mind that registered adults that might be assigned to a patrol or den for youth protection purposes are to remain stable for that group as well for the same three-week period.

Are facemasks and physical distancing required?

Yes. Face coverings are strongly encouraged for young children from two years old through second grade if they can be worn properly. Face coverings are required for children in third grade through high school. All adults are to wear facemasks. Face coverings can be removed for eating, hydration, or outdoor recreation. Physical distancing practices are to be maintained. Parents accompanying or observing should utilize extreme distancing as a mitigation measure.

Are indoor meetings allowed?

The preference for all activities and meeting is outdoors as that limits the risk of transmission of the coronavirus. If a meeting is conducted indoors, hypervigilance is to be practiced in terms of first wiping down all surfaces, checking ventilation systems, etc. It is advised that Scouting activities and meetings be outdoors for the near future.

Is camping allowed?

Yes. Stable groups are allowed a variety of activities including camping. It is important to keep in mind that the 15-youth member restriction will likely mean that camping is conducted by patrols or combinations of dens as opposed to full troops or packs. When planning for camping activities, the three-week time period for a stable group needs to remain enforced which would mean that last minute changes to attendance is not permitted.

Are there other considerations to keep in mind in terms of camping?

As camping includes cooking and meals, there are a number of hygiene requirements that need to be incorporated in your planning. Hand washing needs to be conducted before and after meals. Paper goods and disposal utensils might be preferred in some cases. Meal preparation and service should be closely supervised by adult volunteers to ensure rigid hygiene requirements are met. Family style meals are not allowed; a single server is the standard.

Tenting is another aspect of camping that should be considered. Ideally Scouts will either tent individually or by household unit.

Since many campgrounds and group sites are closed, where can we camp?

Beginning August 28, 2020, we will once again begin permitting unit camping at Camp Tamarancho. Campsite will be limited to 15 youth and a maximum attendance of 25 total. We will be continuing our family camping programs concurrently with unit camping. It is important to remember that groups camping are to remain separate from one another to mitigate the risk of virus transmission.

Is Camp Marin Sierra available for unit camping?

Currently Nevada County is discouraging visitors from outside of the county. We are respecting that decision and not permitting camping at Marin Sierra at this time. Should this change, we will update our members.

How do we reserve a campsite at Tamarancho?

Due to the level of restrictions in place, reservation can be made by calling the council office at 415-454-1081 or emailing cmueller@boyscouts-marin.org. We are not currently allowing reservations through our online system.

Who can camp at Tamarancho?

For the coming weeks, we are limiting use of Camp Tamarancho to Marin Council Scouting units and Scouting families only. It is a benefit of your association with the Marin Council.

Are service projects such as Eagle Scout Projects allowed?

Yes, but those must follow the same 15-youth stable guidelines as outlined above. Projects can also be conducted using household groups for segregated portions of the project.

Service Projects and some activities require equipment or tools, can those be used?

Yes, but shared equipment should be disinfected at the start of an activity and wiped cleaned between each user. Activities that require supplies (rope, craft kit, paints, etc.) should be planned in advance and when possible, those supplies should be pre-packaged individually for each Scout.

Are Courts of Honor or Awards Ceremonies allowed?

The new guidelines allow Youth Program but are not designed to establish larger social gatherings. While recognition of achievement is an important part of Scouting we are not advising traditional Courts of Honors, Blue and Gold Dinners, or other award ceremonies at this time. Some units have conducted inventive “drive through” awards ceremonies and socially distanced bridging’s that are meaningful and unique to our situation.

Since we can meet and have activities, can we carpool?

No, transportation to and from events should be limited to household members as much as possible.

How do I make sure what we are planning for our Scouting activities are in keeping with health department guidelines?

Your Marin Council staff keeps abreast of changes in state and county regulations related to the pandemic. Contact your District Executive or Council Executive if you have any questions; we’ll do our best to help.

For More Information:

Marin Council – 415-454-1081

Council Scout Executive, Michael Dybeck, mdybeck@boyscouts-marin.org

Senior District Executive, Nancy Rozell – nrozell@boyscouts-marin.org (Packs and Posts)

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