



March 18, 2020 UPDATE
Gulf Coast Council Coronavirus Update



To: All BSA Volunteers and Employees

To our Scouting community,

In Scouting, we vow to help other people at all times. Now, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, our Scouting community must do its part to slow the spread of the virus, which will save lives and avoid overwhelming our local healthcare infrastructure.

The safety of Scouts, volunteers, employees and our communities is our top priority.

With safety in mind and based on guidance from national health officials,

the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is strongly advising that in-person meetings, activities, events and gatherings of 10 or more people be suspended through the end of March. Please also follow any restrictions outlined by your state and local health department or other state and local authorities. This applies to youth and adults out of an abundance of caution.

In accordance with national guidelines, please focus on the following through the end of March:

- Avoid in-person gatherings; instead, utilize available digital and online resources, such as video conferencing, to continue Scouting meetings, projects

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and advancement, adhering to the current youth protection guidelines already in place for digital communications.

- If you must meet, limit participants to fewer than 10 people and remain at least six feet apart.
- Follow BSA blogs and social channels, as well as #ScoutingAtHome, for great examples and ideas of how to continue Scouting.
- If you or any member of your family feel sick, DO NOT go into the office or attend any gatherings. Contact your health professional to get care and notify your supervisor so they can take the appropriate measures while you focus on recuperating.

We will continue to evaluate the ongoing situation and prioritize the safety of everyone involved in Scouting – youth, families, volunteers, employees and our communities – is our number one priority.

We realize these decisions are not without their challenges, and we thank you for helping meet the needs of our communities in difficult times.

The steps we are taking reinforce the many ways – big and small – that Scouting empowers character and leadership today and for generations to come.

Yours in Scouting,

Roger C. Mosby

President and CEO

Boy Scouts of America

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March 17, 2020 UPDATE

Gulf Coast Council Coronavirus Update

With the CDC guideline change of recommending groups of only 10 or less, the Gulf Coast Council will be making the following changes

- The Wilderness First Aid and CPR classes that were scheduled this weekend have been **POSTPONED**. If you are registered for these classes, please check your e-mail for more information.
- The Spanish Trail Scout Reservation Alumni Association Weekend has been **POSTPONED**. Alumni Association President Jacob Somers will be sending an e-mail to the association's members with more information.

March 16, 2020 UPDATE

Gulf Coast Council Coronavirus Update

With the new guidelines set by the CDC, the Gulf Coast Council will be making the following changes:

- The following events have been **cancelled**
 - All roundtables in April
 - Fam Camp scheduled for April 17-19
 - BALOO Training April 18-19
- The following events have been **postponed**
 - Order of the Arrow Conclave-make-up date to be determined
 - Pensacola Bay District Camporee- make-up date to be determined (Troop 3 are not quitters, and they are still planning a great camporee)
- The Scout Office and Scout Shop will be closed March 17, 2020 to March 31, 2020 to customers. If you need to drop something off, there will be a box at the front door where you can drop it off. If you need to talk to somebody, the staff will be available by phone and/or e-mail.

Unit leaders, you need to have discussions with your unit's committee and charter organizations about continuing having meetings and events during this time period.

MARCH 13, 2020 UPDATE

Gulf Coast Council Coronavirus Update

What is the Coronavirus?

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The coronavirus is one of the family of viruses that can cause symptoms like the common cold and/or flu virus. Although the immediate health risk is low according to the Center of Disease Control (CDC), we are taking precautions.

What do symptoms of Coronavirus look like?

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) can cause mild to severe respiratory symptoms such as cough, runny nose, sore throat, congestion, fatigue, shortness of breath, and fever.

We will continue to monitor the latest updates of COVID-19 with our local and state health departments, and the CDC.

The Gulf Coast Council (GCC) will announce any cancellations of district and council events/meetings after considerations of current local school system cancellation decisions.

What precautionary measures is the GCC taking at council and district events.

1. **Adult Volunteer/Parent Choice:** Any adult/parent currently signed up for any district or council event between March 13-April 30 may request a refund if the request is received in writing (email: jim.boksa@scouting.org) **prior** to the event **only**.
2. The GCC has currently enacted the mandatory long term camp **BSA Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist** verification for all youth and adult district/council activities.

BSA Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist

Has the participant had any of the following symptoms in the last 24 hours?

- Fever (100.4 F or greater)
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

If the participant has fever, vomiting, OR diarrhea- HE OR SHE SHOULD STAY HOME

Has the participant had any of the following symptoms in the last 24 hours?

- Unexplained, extreme fatigue or muscle aches
- Rash





- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Open Sore

If the participant has any two (or more) of these symptoms- **he or she should stay home**. If the participant has one of these symptoms, discuss any limitations and restrictions and consider having him or her stay home.

Participants who become ill should not return to the activity until they are cleared by a health-care provider.

3. Several mobile wash stations are being placed in key traffic locations around events during larger district and council events.
4. Increased sanitation efforts in common areas, buildings, and dining facilities.

What precautionary measures are suggested for local scout units

1. Based on meeting patterns, location, and meeting space consideration each charter partner should locally determine any potential change in regular meetings.
2. The GCC suggests units use the BSA Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist for youth-parent activities and **prior to departing** for unit overnight campouts.

What can Parents do to protect their family?

Parents should take the same precautions they would for any common cold or flu

- Family members need to wash their hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. (Alcohol based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol content can work in a pinch)
- Hands should be washed before eating, after using the bathroom, and when you come inside from outdoor activities that caused hands to get dirty.
- Teach children not to touch their mouth, eyes, or noses unless they just washed their hand
- Cough and/or sneeze into your elbow and not your hands
- Distance yourself from anyone coughing or sneezing.





- Encourage healthy habits, like eating healthy diet, exercising, and getting enough sleep.
- Get the flu vaccine to help prevent the flu, which is more common and can be dangerous
- **Do not send your child to school or Scouts when they are sick.**
- If you have any symptoms of the virus, seek medical attention immediately and follow the advice of your medical professional.

For additional information on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) from the CDC, visit this page:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

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