

August 17, 2020

National Capital Area Council - Guidance on Outdoor Activities for Fall 2020

The Executive Committee, composed of the volunteer and professional leaders of the council, recently agreed on guidance and limitations on Council, District and unit outdoor activities for the fall, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic that is still prevalent in our area.

The Committee carefully considered the strong desire of our Scouts and units to be out in the field, the experience the council has gained over the summer in virus-transmission precautions in outdoor activities and the local government restrictions on the size of gatherings and in-person classroom instruction. The paramount consideration was the health and safety of our Scouts and their families.

With this in mind, the Committee agreed to the following guidance for NCAC units and Districts in conducting outdoor activities this fall

- We encourage units to continue to conduct outdoor Scouting activities as permitted by their unit Key Three, Chartering Organization and local government virus precaution restrictions
- There will be no mass gatherings of Scouts in the outdoors permitted this fall. This means no traditional District camporees nor any staggered, circuit course events involving multiple Dens, Patrols and Crews in the same location
- We encourage Districts to conduct distributed events in which Dens, Patrols and Crews independently work through an identical template of well-defined activities in their own outdoor setting to demonstrate Scouting skills in a competitive atmosphere. The NCAC Marketing and Communication Committee is available to provide support to District activities that will allow large numbers of Units, or Dens and Patrols to complete competitions at their meeting place and live feed the results to the District Activity Committee for verification. Training for this type of activity will be available in September, more details will be provided soon.
- Our Council camps will sponsor and be open for small group activities this fall. Specifically, the Goshen Labor Day Family Camping event will proceed as scheduled and Camp William B. Snyder will host several fall Family Camping events that include a prepared program. Additionally, Camp Snyder will be open for individual family and Patrol camping (no unit camping) on selected weekends; campers will be responsible for their own programming. Also, a number of the traditional program activities at Camp Snyder, including the Wood Shop, Scouterhorn and LASR Robotics, can be independently scheduled by small groups. Finally, merit badge counselors may use Camp Snyder to teach outdoor oriented merit badges in small groups.

Over the spring and summer NCAC has gained experience and momentum in providing quality Scouting activities despite the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 virus. The BSA SAFE checklist is included with this message and should be used when planning activities with Scouts and Scouters. We need to remain strong as a community and continue to be innovative in creating engaging outdoor program for our Scouts this fall. Please share your successes on

WeOwnAdvnture.com so other districts can learn from your creativity. Our combined energy and talent will ensure Scouting Continues!