

Scouts Canada - Cascadia

COVID-19 Safety Plan for Outdoor Adventures and Overnight Camps

It is the responsibility of the Scouter-in-Charge to fill in the required information in the chart below and submit this document to the applicable health authority. Please cc your Group Commissioner.

Submit this safety plan at least 7 days prior to date of Camp.

Interior Health: ephcovid19@interiorhealth.ca

Northern Health: php@northernhealth.ca

Island Health: Gateway_Office@viha.ca (ATTN: Nancy Clements – add this to subject line)

Subject: Scouts Canada Camping Plan-[Group Name]

Email Body: “As instructed, I am submitting the COVID-19 Overnight Camping Safety Plan for [Group Name] of Scouts Canada. You will find the required details of the overnight camp in the attached document.”

Date:	
Camp Location:	
Number of volunteers:	
Number of Youth:	
Scouter-in-charge (main contact) phone number:	
If out of cell service – need contact system in place so health authority can reach you.	

Definitions:

Scout Group: A local organization for scouting and is comprised of **Sections**. The local Scout Group is operated by a lead volunteer known as a **Group Commissioner**.

Group Commissioner: leader of Scout Group in charge of all safety, financial, and overall planning of activities of Scout Groups.

Sections: Are clustered age groups within a Group

Patrol: A “patrol” is a general Scouting term for a small team, typically 6 to 8 youth. A “patrol” is the same as a “household” as defined in [BC Camping Association Overnight Camping Guidelines](#).

Scouter: A volunteer that facilitates Section programs for youth and provides a safe and inclusive environment for children and youth.

Activity: Any action or meeting involving those registered as members, or those eligible for membership in, Scouts Canada indulging in any gathering for the purposes of Scouting within or outside of Canada. This would include programming, training sessions, events, day camps, overnight camps, and planning sessions for the purposes of Scouting.

Safety Guidelines & Standards

Anyone who is eligible to receive their COVID-19 vaccine is encouraged to do so, and preferably to have it done two weeks prior to the camp. This is not a point of exclusion, just an encouragement.

All Scouting in-person activities must ensure program and plans are modified to reduce the spread of illness.

- For the purposes of these standards, an **'activity'** is any action or meeting involving those registered as members, or those eligible for membership in, Scouts Canada indulging in any gathering for the purposes of Scouting within or outside of Canada.

Each Council and/or Group is responsible for ensuring, that they follow Scouts Canada, Federal, Provincial and Municipal Government health and safety restrictions.

The **two-Scouter rule** must always be in effect and maintained.

Scouter to Youth ratio (1:8) must be always maintained when conducting in-person Scouting Activities.

For ALL in-person activities the following requirements are to be adhered to:

Meeting Requirements & Physical Distancing

Both indoor and outdoor activities are permitted.

- No limit to number of participants for outdoor gatherings.
- Indoor gatherings have a limit of 50% capacity of building/facility.

All Scouting in-person activities are to be split into smaller teams (patrols) of 8 or fewer youth per patrol.

- A "patrol" is a general Scouting term for a small team, typically 6 to 8 youth.

When conducting both indoor and outdoor meetings, youth members within their patrol are encouraged to practice physical distancing and minimize physical contact.

- Patrols must remain separate and maintain physical distancing of 2m from another patrol for the duration of the activity.
- Meeting and activities should be modified to maintain a physical distance of at least one meter (1m) from participants within patrols.
- Adults, and Scouters, working with an assigned patrol must maintain physical distancing of 2m.

When conducting indoor activities, the building must be well -ventilated, offer enough space for physical distancing, and wear a mask when distancing is not possible.

Avoid large gatherings, like traditional opening ceremonies, large campfires and instead modify to patrol-based activities.

If permitted by local authorities, campfires are permitted only if physical distancing can be maintained. Singing outdoors is permitted, but not indoors.

Drop-off and pick-up procedures must be modified to ensure compliance with these standards. This may include use of directional flow, markers, and staggered drop-off/pick-up times. Continue to maintain physical distancing and have a designated area with Scouters screening and guiding youth.

Vulnerable Populations

Adults and Scouters should be aware of the guidance for “Vulnerable Persons” or “At-Risk” persons and take additional risk controls that they determine appropriate, e.g. maintaining physical distance, wearing PPE, reducing potential exposure time. Vulnerable adults must discuss with the Scouter-in-Charge to ensure appropriate risk management controls are acceptable.

Youth with underlying conditions, medical and/or behavioral complexities may attend Scouting activities, however, it is important for parents/guardians to work with their child’s health-care providers so that an informed decision can be made. Parents must inform the Scouter-in-Charge in advance to ensure appropriate risk management controls are considered.

- Where there is a vulnerable person in their household, the member must consider carefully if they should attend.

Cleaning & Hygiene

The Scouter-in-Charge will ensure that appropriate levels of hygiene, cleaning, and disinfecting, are planned and executed.

- This includes general cleaning and disinfection of objects and surfaces touched by many people once per day; and disinfecting high touch surfaces visibly dirty twice a day.
- Use of shared objects, gear and equipment within patrols is permitted and should be cleaned and disinfected between each use.
- For disinfection, use common, commercially available disinfectants such as ready-to-use disinfecting wipes and pre-made solutions (no dilution needed). Refer to the [Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings Guidelines](#) for additional information.

Handwashing stations and/or Alcohol Based Hand Rub with a minimum 60% alcohol concentration must be made available.

- Soap and water are preferred as it is the most effective method and least likely to cause harm if accidentally ingested.
- A large water jug with a spigot to open and close is the preferred method for a handwashing station – with soap, paper towel, and trash bin.

Screening

The Scouter-in-Charge must ensure that all Scouters, parents, youth and others attending the activity are reasonably informed of the requirements and associated risks of participation.

All participants must be provided a [self-assessment screening checklist](#) to perform screening of their children or themselves before arriving at the planned Scouting activity.

- It is understood that some allergies or pre-existing conditions may express similar symptoms to COVID-19. If in doubt consult a medical professional.
- Scouters, parents or guardians and youth must not attend the programs or other Scouting activities if they are sick (any illness – not just limited to COVID).

- Where there is another sick person in their household, the member should consider carefully if they should attend.

All persons ordered, and family members (or social bubble) of persons ordered, to quarantine or self-isolate under a Public Health order of a Municipality, Province or an order made under the Federal Quarantine Act are prohibited from in-person Scouting activities.

If a person develops symptoms while participating in a Scouting activity the Scouter-in-Charge must follow the [Supporting a Symptomatic Person Guideline](#) and must complete and submit an Incident Report Form to Safe Scouting following the Incident Management Procedure.

- Youth who develop symptoms while at a Scouting activity are required to wear a mask and be quarantined in a designated area until a parent arrives for pick up.
- It is advised to have a separate tent designated for quarantine purposes. The symptomatic person must be kept at least 2 metres away from all other individuals.
- Ensure the belongings of the symptomatic person go home with them. PPE should be worn when doing this.
- Notification of a positive case within a group needs to be guided in conversation with the local Medical Health Officer.

Screening

For the purposes of contact tracing, attendance and screening, results must be recorded for everyone attending the activity including Scouters, youth, parents and anyone else on the activity site.

Screening must be completed **daily by all participants** for overnight camps.

Records must be maintained for a minimum of 6 weeks following each activity to facilitate contact tracing in the event of an outbreak.

Emergency Response & Risk Management

An updated hazard identification and risk assessment is conducted for the activity location and planned activity.

An Emergency Response Plan (ERP) is updated to reflect pandemic requirements and local conditions. [ERP – Junior Sections](#) [ERP – Senior Sections](#)

[Modified Adventure Application Form](#) (MAAF) is updated for the site to be visited, expected weather conditions, location and municipal requirements.

Overnight Camping

The Scouter-in-Charge must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Group Commissioner that all the requirements of this Pandemic Program & Activity Modifications Standard have been met and can be maintained throughout the proposed adventure including under an emergency response scenario.

- Sharing of tents is permitted within patrols, providing patrols maintain separation (minimum of 2m) from other patrols for the duration of the activity.
 - If patrol separation cannot be guaranteed, all camping, or overnight accommodation is to be conducted individually in tents or appropriate camping shelters.
- Camping in tents or shelters is preferred.
- Sleeping in hard-sided tents, Adirondack shelters, individual huts or other camp buildings is permitted in patrols of up to 8 youth only. Door and windows with screens should be left open to help with ventilation.
 - Youth sharing tents/shelters must be spaced 1m apart from each other and be oriented in a head-to-toe (opposite) configuration.
- Large buildings, halls or other facilities cannot be used for overnight accommodation.
- Adults (Scouters, including parents) are required to sleep in separate accommodation away from the youth.

Given the inherent nature of higher risk with younger youth, overnight camping for Colony (Beaver Scouts) and Pack (Cub Scouts) should be considered only after rigorous review of the risk controls commensurate with the planned activity. Daytime activities are recommended for both Colonies and Packs for the duration of the declared pandemic.

Food provisions for Overnight Camps

Cooking in patrols in patrols is permitted, or small groups of 2 or 3 youth is encouraged (allows youth to practice the Outdoor Adventure Trail & Camping Skills.) The youth can also develop their meal-planning skills, practice cooking new menus and be self-contained: planning, purchasing, carrying, storing, cooking, cleaning, and eating their own meals. For emergency purposes, individually packaged food items can be on hand.

For **Beavers and Cubs** or if having youth cook in small groups is not possible, cooking should be done by a designated cook with FoodSafe accreditation. No self-serve buffet style meals are permitted. Food should be distributed by designated individuals using methods that avoid gathering and overcrowding. Cooks and food distributors/servers should be wearing masks and gloves while cooking and serving food.

- Food can be served family-style or served as prepared meals by FoodSafe accredited volunteer.
- No self-serve buffet-style meals.
- When possible, serve meals and snacks outside.
- Food services must adhere to current WorkSafeBC guidance for restaurants, cafes, and pubs (FoodSafe Certification).
- Patrols may sit together – with 2 m separation from other patrols.
- Clean and disinfect eating and cooking equipment after use.

After cooking and before next use, all cooking equipment should be cleaned and sanitized. A sanitization area should be set up for youth to be able to wash and sanitize their dishes.

Youth should be reminded to wash/sanitize hands before and after eating.

First Aid

Every Scouting adventure requires an emergency response plan, which will include first aid and emergency medical care coverage. We believe that everyone involved in Scouts Canada activities should be prepared to provide emergency aid. Our goal should be for every youth to be appropriately competent in emergency aid to others. Particularly for Category 2 and Category 3 adventurous activities, youth should be prepared to respond to emergencies. This is part of our goal to prepare them for success in life.

The Group Commissioner needs to approve all first aid requirements as per Scouts Canada's ByLaws Policies and Procedures' [First Aid Standards](#) and review risk management plans for all camping and outdoor adventures.

Approvals

The Scouter-in-Charge must complete a Modified Adventure Application Form ("MAAF") and an Emergency Response Plan for all outdoor activities or those activities away from the usual meeting place. This includes Category 1 outdoor activities.

The Group Commissioner may approve one application form for multiple activities in the same location, including multiple days, if they are satisfied that the risk conditions and risk controls are not materially different from the initial discussions, verification, and approval.