



## Suffolk County Council Boy Scouts of America COVID-19 Unit Activity Guide (Updated 3/22/2021)

Stay healthy, Be safe, and Have Fun! That's our goal.

For your unit's Scouting activities, the BSA National Council has provided a restart guide. You can download it here by clicking on [Restart Scouting Checklist](#). Additional Suffolk County Council unit activity guidelines are listed below.

For more information on COVID-19 guidelines, check the following links for the State of New York, BSA National, CDC, and Suffolk County Council for staying current on COVID-19 requirements:

- Your District Safety Champions are your Suffolk County Council primary source for answers to your COVID-19 questions and any other safety related questions. They are listed along with contact information at the bottom of the Suffolk County Council [Scouting Safely](#) webpage.
- New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) [What You Need to Know](#) webpage.
- NYSDOH [Cluster Zone Initiative](#) webpage for information on gatherings within designated [NYS COVID-19 cluster zones](#).
- [BSA National COVID-19 FAQ webpage](#) (Includes additional COVID-19 related answers on Camping this Fall/Winter and Advancement).
- [CDC Things You Need to Know About the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Additionally, the Suffolk County Council Service Center and Scout Shop are open for business. The hours are Monday – Friday 10am – 5pm for the service center, 10 am – 6pm for the Scout Shop. The store is also open Saturday from 11 am – 3 pm. Baiting Hollow Scout Camp is open and will be operating amazing programs this year. Be sure to check out Baiting Hollow Scout Camp for more information.

The New York State Department of Health has issued revised in person gathering limits, detailed below, effective March 22, 2021. Even with expanded gathering limits, unit leaders, committee members, and parents are asked to “Zoom” together, when appropriate, to keep the scouts engaged, help them continue to advance, and have fun. Below are some basic reminders and guidelines to consider and/or follow as you look at and revise your program calendar.

Our COVID-19 guidelines are based on State of New York Department of Health (NYSDOH) requirements. Before beginning any unit event, please have the latest information available from the State of New York, understanding that this can and may possibly change from week to week. Currently:

- All BSA Youth Protection guidelines are to be adhered to.
- We strongly encourage the use of face masks and social distancing at all times when meeting in-person. Face masks are required for people who are unable to keep six feet away from others.
- Be sure you have parent permission for all events and use our [COVID-19 Pre-Screening Health Form](#) for in-person meetings to prevent possible spread and facilitate contact tracing, if needed. This can be retained in digital form, e.g., as a Google document.
- Determine and decide what guidelines the unit will need to impose before participation is allowed, e.g., face masks, transportation, size of group(s), feeding options, etc.
- Involve the key leaders of your Chartered Organization to get their input and approval for in-person meeting plans.

- Unit in-person non-residential meetings are limited to the following NYSDOH requirements as of March 22, 2021:
  - Non-Residential Indoor – 100 people total. This would be firehouses, churches, VFW Halls, etc. NOT PRIVATE RESIDENCES.
  - Non- Residential Outdoor – 200 people total. This would include venues like parking lots, parks, playgrounds, or beaches.

Council and District outdoor activities are covered by separate Suffolk County Department of Health guidelines.

**Note:** Places where units meet indoors may be subject to separate NYSDOH limitations or may choose to continue restricting use out of an abundance of caution. Check with the meeting place or venue owner prior to scheduling.

- Unit in-person residential meetings are limited to the following NYSDOH requirements as of March 22,2021:
  - Residential Indoor – 10 people total. That includes any family members who are present in the residence at the time of the meeting.
  - Residential Outdoor (Backyards) – 25 people.
- Anyone who is sick or exhibiting any symptoms of the coronavirus must stay home or will be sent home.
- No overnight group camping – NY State requirements currently state only households can camp.
- Have adequate sanitation supplies on hand.
- No sharing of food or drink.
- Be vigilant in ensuring everyone washes their hands thoroughly and maintains physical distancing.

