

Dear Scouting Family of the Hawkeye Area Council,

The leadership of the Hawkeye Area Council would like to present this, our latest update, on our response to the COVID-19 outbreak and protocols for Scouting operations going forward. We appreciate your continued patience as we navigate this situation.

- Unit programming should be conducted under current guidelines from the State of Iowa and the CDC with approval of the unit's chartered organization and subject to the current COVID-19 protocols of any meeting or activity facility.
- Effective immediately, all visitors and staff that are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 will be exempted from wearing a face-covering at all council-owned facilities, including the Scout Service Center and all council camps, except during certain times/events where youth will be unable to social distance. (These will be clearly communicated at camp and as an example will include the trading post and TSB where masks will be required during resident summer camp until future notice). The council recommends that those individuals that are not fully vaccinated should continue to wear a face-covering where social distancing is not possible, except while eating, drinking, or participating in an activity where face coverings are not feasible, such as aquatics.
- District and Council meetings and events may be conducted in person and will utilize the same face-covering policy unless held at a facility that is not council-owned, as those facilities may have additional restrictions that should be followed.
- Council camps will continue to utilize the COVID-19 Pre-Screening Form as per our 2021 leader guide found [here](#).
- Social Distancing should be followed in all situations where it is feasible.
- Overnight district and council activities and training are allowed for all Scouting programs. All district activities should have an event plan reviewed and approved by the Council Short-term Camp Administrator, and all council activities will have an event plan reviewed and approved as well.

- For summer camp –
 - **Are visitors allowed at camp this year?**

We will allow visitors at camp for pick-ups and supervision needs throughout the week as in past years and for Family Night. Following CDC guidance, fully vaccinated individuals may visit without wearing a mask or physically distancing. Non-vaccinated visitors are strongly encouraged to wear masks when distancing is not possible and will be required to wear a mask at Friday evening campfire. Some other examples may include, but are not limited to, in the trading post and TSB.

- **Will face coverings be required?**

Effective immediately, all visitors and staff that are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 will be exempted from wearing a face covering at all council-owned facilities, including the Scout Service Center and all council camps, except during certain times/events where youth will be unable to social distance. (These will be clearly communicated at camp and as an example will include the trading post and TSB where masks will be required during resident summer camp until future notice). The council recommends that those individuals that are not fully vaccinated should continue to wear a face covering where social distancing is not possible, except while eating, drinking, or participating in an activity where face coverings are not feasible, such as aquatics. Bullying and harassment of individuals who choose to wear a face covering or not will not be tolerated.

- **Are family nights coming back?**

YES! Family night will look a bit different this year. Families are invited **Friday night** to join their Scout for the final evening campfire of the week. Enjoy skits and songs performed by Scouts and end of week awards. Troops are encouraged to host their own meal as in the past. In 2021, the dining hall is closed during resident camp. However, meals can be provided by camp; please request the number of meals you will need during the check-in process at the beginning of the week. Please note – anyone who is not vaccinated will be required to wear a mask at the campfire. Visiting families are highly encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs to assist with social distancing.

- **Will there be an OA program this summer?**

YES! We are excited to announce that Order of the Arrow Call Out ceremonies will be held Wednesday nights of Scouts BSA camp weeks. Ordeal candidates will also be celebrated in an abbreviated recognition on family night which will take place on Friday evenings during Scouts BSA resident camp weeks.

- **Will the swimming pool be open?**

Yes, the swimming pool will be open. Masks will be required when entering, exiting and in locker rooms when unable to social distance.

- **Will all merit badges be completed at camp?**

Scouts will be unable to complete merit badges like Lifesaving and Swimming, where person-to-person contact is required. Merit badges that do not require person-to-person contact will be able to be completed at camp.

The Hawkeye Area Council is working regularly and diligently to determine our plans going forward. The council remains committed to keeping our constituents updated regularly with new information as we have it. We will continue to communicate through three main mechanisms – Facebook, Good Turn Newsletter, and the Council Website. Please consult these regularly for updates.

Thank you for all you do for Scouting!