

Back to the Outdoors Sioux Council, BSA

The Sioux Council is happy to announce our camp properties will resume taking reservations for all properties on June 1st. Iyataka, Shetek (minus the lodge) and Lewis & Clark will be available to camp on June 1st. Newton Hills will be available to camp on June 15th. Lewis & Clark Scout Reservation isn't available to reserve in July & August due to summer camping programs.

The safety of all our members, volunteers, and employees is the Sioux Council's top priority. In light of COVID-19, moving forward we are recommending additional precautions take place for units that decide to camp on top of our long-established health and safety measures.

The Sioux Council is following the same guidelines **for the month of June** as SD and MN State Parks to **not allow groups larger than 10 to camp in any-one campsite**. This doesn't mean only 10 people can camp on our properties at a time. It means only groups of 10 people can be in each campsite, but multiple groups cannot interact with each other. We recommend conducting all activities in the open air and tenting is best with one Scout, or family, per tent. If the resources are not available for a unit to have one tent per Scout or family, then having Scouts sleep head-to-toe in the tent is recommended. **All YPT guidelines are to be followed.**

These precautions and the below recommended screening processes are important, but they do not remove the potential for exposure to COVID-19 or any other illness while at camp. Some people with COVID-19 show no signs or symptoms of illness but can still spread the virus, and people may be contagious before their symptoms occur. These factors mean that an infected person may pass health screenings. We also know the very nature of camp makes social distancing difficult in many situations and impossible in others.

Information from the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** states that older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. **If you are in this group, please ensure you have approval from your health care provider prior to camping.** We know that each Scouting family has a unique set of circumstances to consider when deciding whether to camp. We hope this information will be helpful as you make those choices. Below are the recommended tools for a safe camp experience.

Your Units mitigation plan should/could include: *(note this process is the responsibility of the unit, not the Council)*

- Pre-attendance education and Health screening via phone, email or text. (Note YPT)
- Health screening prior to departure and upon arrival at camp property
 - Note: Should anyone not pass the arrival screening, he/she and everyone with that individual should not be allowed to camp.
- Limits on visitors in camp - All visitors should be screened upon arrival by the unit.
- Hygiene reminders throughout camp experience.
- Extra handwashing and the unit should provide hand sanitizer
- Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces and shared program equipment.
- An emergency response plan that includes isolation and quarantine protocol
- Check-ins with each Scout one week and two weeks after the unit leaves camp to determine if any participants have developed symptoms.
- Wearing a mask when individuals are within 6ft of another (minus tent sleeping)

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Sioux Council, BSA Recommended Health Screening Protocol

With the safety of your Scouts, leaders and family in mind the Sioux Council Health and Safety committee has developed this recommended screening process to be used by your unit. Based on current health and safety recommendations by local, state and CDC guidelines this document is meant to be a screening protocols guide.

1. Protocols should include pre-screening, check-in screening, screening during event (if longer than a day event) and post screening. The protocols are to be based on current health and safety recommendations by local, state and CDC guidelines.
2. During the screening process, the following questions are to be asked of every individual attending. Questions and responses are to be recorded. The recommended form template is below and should be kept on file by the unit in case it's needed.
 - a. Do you have any of the following?
 - Fever or feeling feverish (chills, sweating). Scouts who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness are recommended to notify their unit leader and stay home until they are free of fever (100.4° F [38.0° C] or greater using an oral thermometer), have signs of a fever, and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours, **without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants).**
 - Shortness of breath (not severe)
 - Cough
 - Are you ill, or caring for someone who is ill? (Scouters who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 should notify their unit leader. They should also stay home).
 - b. In the last two weeks;
 - Have you had contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19?

Suggested travel and tenting procedure

Families should travel together, even if a parent is just driving both ways. If a Scout travels with a family other than theirs, it is up to the Scout's parent to make that decision at their discretion. If the unit will be putting two Scouts per tent, travel plans should be based on that pairing.

