



## NEWSLETTER... **NEW YEAR, NEW DISTRICT!!**

As we start a new year and a new district, it seems like a good time for us to share what has worked for our units!

This newsletter is intended to share information—about upcoming events or about activities that we have done. Whether pictures or a short article, every unit is capable of informing us with interesting and useful knowledge. Packs, Troops, and Crews—please submit articles and/or photos of your unit's activities or events for the District newsletter to Bernie Suess at [newsletter@minsi-northampton.com](mailto:newsletter@minsi-northampton.com). Submit your information by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of each month for the following month's newsletter.

### 2021 DATES

Roundtable / OA Chapter 7:00pm  
District Committee 7:00pm  
Eagle Board & Project Review  
District Commissioners

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday

District Recharter Day

December 4, 2021

### MEETING LOCATION KEY

# Dates and locations to be added as announced

*NOTICE: If you have a question regarding any date or activity, please contact the respective Chair listed on the District Committee Page.*



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

## NORTHAMPTON DISTRICT LINKS

Northampton District Home Page on Council Website:

<http://www.minsitrails.org/districts/northampton-district/60269>

Trail to Eagle Resources:

<http://www.minsitrails.org/eagle-rank/trail-to-eagle-resources/60185>

**Links will be added as  
they become available**

### **IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP: 2021 NORTHAMPTON DISTRICT ACTIVITIES**

**JANUARY 6** - Northampton District Committee Meeting, online

**JANUARY 13** - Northampton District Roundtable, online

**JANUARY 18** - Order of the Arrow, Takhone Chapter meeting, 7pm (Monday this month only)

**MARCH 6** - Northampton District Pinewood Derby

**MARCH 13** - University of Scouting

### **NORTHAMPTON DISTRICT ROUNDTABLE AGENDAS**

*Start time is 7:00 PM (online link will be sent before meeting)*

<b>DATE</b>	<b>OVERALL PROGRAM</b>	<b>CUB SCOUTS (Program Leaders and Committee)</b>	<b>SCOUTS, BSA (youth and adults)</b>
January 13	Welcome and introductions	Crossover and Cub Scouting overview	Trail to Eagle overview
February 10	Council Executive Chat with Rick Christ	Summer Camp offerings	Summer Camp(s) offerings

## *In Northampton District*

***Northampton District Recharter Day - Wind Gap Fire Company  
December 5, 2020***



## Overview of the 2021 Northampton County District (NCD) Pinewood Derby® (PWD) Race Rules

The 2021 NCD PWD Race is tentatively planned live on Saturday, March 6 at a to be determined location. Each Pack may send up to 5 Racers with their cars. Due to COVID-19 & its changing restrictions look for details at [minitrails.org](http://minitrails.org) & select "Districts" in the banner.

To *compete* for a speed trophy at the NCD PWD Race your car must comply with the 2021 NCD PWD Race Rules which is the checklist on the other side of this sheet, *The Checklist Rules*. All cars at the NCD Check-In will be inspected using this checklist. Listed below is nearly every violation missed by prior years Racing Teams.

Refer to [scoutshop.org/pinewood-derby](http://scoutshop.org/pinewood-derby) for virtual PWD Champ Camps that were offered by National BSA. To learn more as able, attend or create a PWD workshop or find that experienced Racing Team. But remember to be careful of non-relevant information from the web or in person.

### **\*\*\* ASK QUESTIONS WELL BEFORE YOUR PACK'S RACE \*\*\***

Reach out to your Pack PWD Chair for clarification of your Pack's rules & the race.

If desired, refer to the *2021 NCD PWD Guide* for clarification of the NCD PWD Race Rules.

For the final answer to questions about the 2021 NCD PWD Race & its Rules, reach out to the NCD PWD Chair, Chris Van Camp at 513-253-8174 (M) or at [MTCNCDPWD@gmail.com](mailto:MTCNCDPWD@gmail.com).

If you are alert to the violations below & follow the Checklist Rules, you *should not* have a problem during the NCD Check-In inspection. However, if the car does not pass, the Racing Team (the Cub Scout & their Akela), MAY be allowed, with approval from the NCD Race Committee, to adjust the car as needed on a case-by-case basis. If the car still cannot pass the inspection & it is safe, it can *participate* in the 2021 NCD PWD Race. However, the car is *not* eligible to win a speed trophy, but it *IS* eligible to win a specialty trophy.

### **Specialty Trophy Categories**

Best Cub Scout Theme      Most Patriotic      Funniest      Best Not A Car      Most Unique

### **These missed details cause 99% of the violations at Check-In**

- 1) The car must be safe to race. The car cannot interfere with the other cars & cannot have ANY loose or fragile or dangerous parts, etc. An unsafe car, to person or property, cannot even *participate* in the NCD PWD Race.
- 2) The NCD scale is probably more precise than your Pack's scale. So, BE PREPARED to remove a little bit of weight (e.g., by use of putty in a hole) to comply with the maximum weight of 5.00 ounces (#1 violation).
- 3) The ENTIRE car MUST meet all the dimension requirements: heights, lengths, & widths.
- 4) If anything is added to the car's underside it must be no more than 1/8" thick & no more than 1 1/8" wide & centered. Do NOT cover the axle slots (#2 & #3 violations). (Try to put weight inside or on top in the back 1/3.)
- 5) The car's "core" MUST be constructed using the components from the Official BSA Pinewood Derby® Car kit box #17006 (2018© &/or 2012©) &/or #17000 (2018© &/or 2009©). The components in these boxes include:

The BSA Pinewood Block      The 4 BSA Nails      The 4 BSA Wheels

- a) *Alternatives:* Only from a BSA Scout Shop, the BSA Wedge & the BSA Tubes containing Wheels & Nails.
  - b) Do NOT use pinewood blocks, nails &/or wheels from ANY other sources. No outsourcing.
  - c) If a component breaks, ONLY go to your Pack PWD Chair &/or a BSA Scout Shop & get another legal Kit or Wedge or Tube of Wheels & Nails. Do NOT go to any other sources, they will NOT pass the inspection.
- 6) The BSA pinewood block's pre-cut slots MUST be used by the axles. NO OTHER axle slots permitted.
  - 7) The axle tips MUST be visible to inspect. Do NOT cover tips (#4 violation). If an adhesive is used, make it clear.
  - 8) All 4 wheels MUST be BSA Wheels. (Colored wheels are allowed.) Only *LIGHT SANDING* to remove MINOR imperfections is permitted. *No alterations!* Nothing removed! Nothing added! No outer coverings. (Fenders are allowed.) **ALL 4 wheels MUST be in CONTACT with the lane at the same time throughout their full rotation!**
  - 9) ONLY a graphite-based DRY lubricant is permitted. It cannot be applied after the car has past inspection.



## The 2021 Northampton County District (NCD) Pinewood Derby® (PWD) Checklist Rules

### Weight/Overall Inspector

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|--|--|
| _____ Guided by the <b>Scout Law &amp; Oath</b><br>(Have Fun & Do Your Best)                             | _____ <b>Cub Scout</b> should be in <b>Class A Uniform</b><br>(Represent Your Pack Pride. If Possible, Bring the Pack Flag/Base) |
| _____ <b>Car Submitted by Registered Scout</b><br>(ALL Lions to 2021 Former AOLs with Their Racing Team) | _____ <b>Scout Built This School Year from Scratch</b><br>(NO Repeats, Repaints, Old Components, Professional, Etc.)             |
| _____ <b>Unaltered Since Pack Inspection</b><br>(ONLY More Graphite & Wheel Cleaning Permitted)          | _____ <b>BODY Component is a <u>BSA PWD BLOCK!</u></b><br>(NO Other Material, Blocks, Kits, Prefinished, Professional, Etc.)     |
| _____ <b>No Sticky Substance</b><br>(No Excess Glue, Wet Paint, Tape, Magnets, Etc.)                     | _____ <b>If Lights/Sound Attached, Turned Off</b><br>(However, Lights & Sounds are Encouraged for Creativity)                    |
| _____ <b>No Moving Weights or Liquids</b><br>(All Parts Solid, Secure, & Safe)                           | _____ <b>No Fragile or Loose Parts</b><br>(No Glass, Mercury, Dangerous Parts, Etc.)   |
| _____ <b><u>WEIGHT ≤ 5.00 OUNCES!</u></b><br>(Not Grams. Up to 5.004 Ounces Permitted. NOT 5.005)        | _____ <b><u>GRAVITY POWERED ONLY!</u></b><br>(NO PROPULSION SYSTEM. PERIOD!)   |

### Dimensions Inspector

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|--|--|
| _____ <b><u>OVERALL LENGTH = 7"</u></b> (Equals)<br>(Caution Block's Length, Cutting Ends, Adding Lights, Pipes, Etc.) | _____ Height ≤ 6" (Lower the Better)<br>(NCD PWD BestTrack® Champ Timer Clearance is 6 1/2")                         |
| _____ <b><u>OVERALL WIDTH ≤ 2 3/4"</u></b><br>(Including Wheels & the Axle Heads & Fenders, Etc.)                      | _____ <b><u>WIDTH Between Wheels ≥ 1 3/4"</u></b><br>(Inside Edge <i>Between Wheels</i> Using Same Axle Slot)        |
| _____ <b>Wheels Do Not Extend Beyond Body</b><br>(Wheels MUST Remain Behind PWD Block's Front & Rear Ends)             | _____ <b>No Protrusion Beyond Starting Pin</b><br>(NOTHING May Extend Beyond the Starting Side of the Pin)           |
| _____ <b>WHEELBASE LENGTH = 4 3/8"</b><br>(Do NOT Make New Axle Slots or Extend Wheelbase)                             | _____ <b>Lengths: Front &amp; Back are 1 5/8" &amp; 1"</b><br>(From Each Associated Axle Slot to the PWD Block Ends) |
| _____ <b>Underside Attachment Width ≤ 1 1/8"</b><br>(Centered & NO Sharp &/or Abrasive Material)                       | _____ <b><u>GROUND CLEARANCE ≥ 3/8"</u></b><br>(NO MORE than 1/8" of Parts Added to Underside of Car)                |
| _____ <b>Bottom of Nose (Front) ≤ 1" High</b><br>(Up Curved Nose Allowed)  | _____ <b>Nose (Front) Width ≥ 1/2", Centered</b><br>(No Pointy Nose)   |

### Axles Inspector

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|---|--|
| _____ <b><u>AXLES are 4 BSA PWD NAILS!</u></b><br>(NO Other Axles. No Prefinished, Professional, Etc.)                  | _____ <b><u>ONLY DRY GRAPHITE-Based Lube!</u></b><br>(NO OIL! No Liquid Lubricant! PERIOD!)                                    |
| _____ <b>2 Wheels &amp; 2 Axles per Axle Slot</b><br>(Each Axle's Pair of Wheels MUST be Across from the Other)         | _____ Both Original <b>Axle Slots</b> Used & <b>Visible</b><br>(ONLY Adjustments Allowed: True Slots & Pre-Drill to Fit Axles) |
| _____ <b>Smooth</b> (if Desired) <b>Unaltered Axles</b><br>( <u>ONLY</u> Filed, Sanded, Polished, & Graphite Permitted) | _____ Each <b>Axle Tip Visible</b> (Do Not Cover)<br>(Caution the Clarity of Adhesive If Used)                                 |
| _____ <b><u>NO BEARINGS/BUSHINGS/WASHERS!</u></b><br>(ONLY Axle, Wheel, PWD Body, & Graphite Permitted)                 | _____ <b><u>NO SPRINGS/SUSPENSION!</u></b><br>(PERIOD! Not Even the Body)  |

### Wheels Inspector

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|---|--|
| _____ <b><u>WHEELS are 4 BSA PWD WHEELS!</u></b><br>(Colored Wheels Allowed. No "CHINA", Prefinished, Professional, Etc.) | _____ <b><u>NO WHEEL ALTERATIONS!</u></b><br>(ONLY Adjustments Allowed: Polish Bore, Hubs, & Tread)            |
| _____ <b>Tread is Flat &amp; Parallel to Bore</b><br>(NO Reshaping Tread at ALL. Lattice MUST Face Outward)               | _____ <b>NO MATERIAL ADDED</b> Except Graphite<br>(NO Inside/Outside Cover, Hubcap, Paint, Nail Polish, Etc.)  |
| _____ Correct <b>LETTERS/NUMBERS</b> Intact<br>(BSA / PINEWOOD DERBY®) (OFFICIAL BSA / # / MADE IN USA)                   | _____ <b>Outside FULLY Intact &amp; UNALTERED</b><br>(Small Dotted Bumps Along Tread & Sidewall. Lattice Also) |
| _____ <b><u>NO MATERIAL REMOVED IN/OUT!</u></b><br>(NO Lathe, Narrow, Lighten, Hub Stepdown Removal, Etc.)                | _____ <b>ONLY LIGHT SANDING</b> Permitted<br>(ONLY TO REMOVE <b>MINOR</b> SURFACE <b>IMPERFECTIONS!</b> )      |
| _____ <b>NOTHING but 4 Wheels Contact Lane</b><br>(Wheels NOT Required to be Flat on Track. Canted Allowed)               | _____ <b><u>NO RAISED WHEEL! PERIOD!</u></b><br>(NO GAP Under Any Wheel. Test on Smooth Rigid Flat Surface)    |



# strengthening Youth THROUGH SCOUTING

Get information from National about coronavirus at: <https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus/>

The BSA Digital Safety and Online Scouting Activities page states, "Do not record online activities/meetings that include youth participants." Some examples include pack/den meetings, troop/patrol meetings, Scoutmaster conferences, and Boards of Review. This policy also applies to any portions of a roundtable that may involve youth, such as the opening and closing or presentations given by youth, unless certain criteria are met. For specific guidance on this, see the Recording section of the Frequently Asked Questions on the Roundtable Support webpage. Learn more by downloading the PDF document at:

<https://igpeu1ikn3a16vg4e45rq17-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/How-to-Prevent-Recording-in-Zoom.pdf>

Read the Virtual Recruitment Guide at:

<https://scoutingwire.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Virtual-Recruitment-Playbook-August-2020-final.pdf>

Marketing webinars are available:

<https://scoutingwire.org/marketing-and-membership-hub/marketing-webinars/>

Learn about Scouting at Home, including multiple 30-day challenges that can be incorporated into virtual meetings: <https://www.scouting.org/scoutingathome/>





**A SAVE THE DATE FOR SEA SCOUT SHIPS AND VENTURE CREWS**

**Announcing the 2021 Sea Scout Academy** sponsored by BSA Northeast Region – Area 5 Sea Scouts and hosted by Minsi Trails Council at Camp Minsi, Pocono Summit, Pennsylvania.

This Sunday through Wednesday event will feature both shore-based and water-based sessions at Camp Minsi's Aquatics Center on Stillwater Lake, located in the heart of the Pocono Mountains in east-central Pennsylvania. There will also be several fun activities designed to build camaraderie between Ships, culminating with Tuesday's "The Big Day Out" event, featuring biking, hiking, and rafting in the Lehigh River Gorge State Park. Venture Crews interested in water-based adventures are also welcome to participate. For details, visit us at: [www.campminsi.org/ssa](http://www.campminsi.org/ssa)

# Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Scouting: Recommendations for Unit and Council Event Leaders

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## Introduction

Communicable diseases, both acute and chronic, exist everywhere. An awareness of the medical approach to these problems will help Scouting leaders plan and conduct safer events.

## Common Ways Communicable Diseases Are Spread

Communicable diseases are infections that can spread from one person to another by direct contact, by contact with blood or bodily fluids (e.g., saliva, feces), airborne droplets from coughing or sneezing, or a “vector” like a mosquito or a tick.

## Examples of Common Communicable Diseases

There are many communicable diseases. The table below has examples of these and shows that some diseases may be spread in multiple ways.

Direct Contact	Airborne Droplets (Respiratory Spread)	Fecal/Oral	Blood, Mucous Membrane Contact	Vector Spread (Mosquito, Tick)
Influenza	Influenza	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Lyme disease
Common cold	Common cold	Norovirus	Hepatitis C	Rocky Mountain spotted fever
Hepatitis B	Whooping cough (pertussis)	Giardia	HIV	Ehrlichiosis
Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	Diphtheria	Pinworms	Zika virus	Zika virus
Chicken pox	Tuberculosis	Salmonella		West Nile virus
Lice	Measles	Polio		
Cold sore	Mumps	Food poisoning		
Ringworm				
Strep throat	Strep throat			
Impetigo				

Not all infectious illnesses are communicable. An ear infection is one such example.

## Symptoms

Common signs and symptoms that may indicate a participant has a potentially infectious and communicable illness are fever, cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, sores with pus on them, pink eye (conjunctivitis), myalgia (muscle soreness), and fatigue.



## Prevention: The Key to Successful Control of Infectious Diseases

**PRE-CAMP MEDICAL QUESTIONNAIRE:** Scouting occurs in groups and often in remote areas. Neither setting is appropriate for a person with a potentially communicable disease. Use of a pre-camp/pre-event medical questionnaire by all unit leaders is strongly recommended before any participant leaves the unit's home base. An example would be the BSA Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist, No. 680-102. Riding in a car or bus with an individual who has certain infections (for example, norovirus) may be risky. If a participant is immunocompromised or has not received all of the recommended vaccines, it is recommended that they stay away from anyone who is ill.

**IMMUNIZATION:** The most effective method of preventing many infectious and life-threatening childhood diseases is, unquestionably, immunization. Many states and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend mandatory immunization prior to enrollment in school. Immunization is effective in treating many, though not all, serious infectious diseases. Examples of diseases prevented by immunization are chicken pox, measles, mumps, and influenza. Tetanus immunization is required for all participants. Prescreening is suggested for potential infectious symptoms. Note that there may be additional state or local laws which supersede any Boy Scouts of America requirement. Check beforehand with the camp or event you are planning to attend or with the local Council Health Supervisor.

**HAND-WASHING:** Careful hand-washing prevents many infections. Hands may be washed with an alcohol-based solution containing at least 60 percent alcohol if the solution stays on the skin for about 20 seconds. If the hands are visibly dirty, soap and clean water should be used for at least 20 seconds until the dirt is gone from the hands and from under the fingernails. When handling or preparing food, hands should be washed frequently. Hands should always be washed after using the restroom—even in a wilderness setting where there is no “restroom.”

**COUGHING:** When anyone coughs or sneezes, it should be “caught” in the bend of the arm or in a tissue. Always wash your hands after coughing or sneezing into a tissue. It is also essential to disinfect surfaces after someone has coughed or sneezed over them because droplets of infected material may contain viruses or bacteria that remain alive for many minutes or even hours.

**DISINFECTION:** Disinfection of contaminated areas is a critical part of disease prevention. While there are many commercially available products for disinfecting surfaces, one effective method is to use at least 5.25 percent hypochlorite (bleach-based household cleaner) and water. For most surfaces, 1½ teaspoons of bleach per gallon of water is adequate. However, if a surface is contaminated with blood or feces, use ¼ cup of bleach-based cleaner in a gallon of water to wipe down the surface.

**GLOVING:** Nonlatex disposable gloves should be used when touching blood, stool, vomit, or bodily secretions from another person. Hand-washing is essential after removing the gloves. Several pairs of these lightweight gloves should be carried in all first-aid kits.

**INSECT REPELLENTS:** While many repellents are available, those with at least 10 percent and no more than 30 percent DEET are considered the best defense against biting insects by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Apply and reapply these repellents according to the directions on the container. Treating clothing with permethrin may also reduce insect bites.

**QUARANTINE:** Participants with any of the symptoms found in the Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist should not participate in a Scouting event. A previously asymptomatic participant who develops symptoms during an event should be sent to a health-care worker for evaluation if possible. If a communicable disease is thought to be present and a professional evaluation is not possible, the participant should be isolated from the rest of the group until he or she can be removed from the event and sent home.

**INCIDENT REPORTING:** If a participant requires medical care beyond Scout-rendered first aid, an incident report must be completed to notify the council. This is extremely important. The incident reporting tool and additional information can be found at [www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/).

**WHEN TO NOTIFY THE COUNCIL HEALTH SUPERVISOR:** An outbreak of a communicable disease has occurred when the number of cases is beyond the usual rate of occurrence for that particular disease. Many communicable diseases require notifying the local or state public health department. A unit leader should notify the council health supervisor if

- Multiple cases of an infectious illness occur, leading to an increased risk of others getting the disease
- The infection results in a participant being hospitalized

Requirements for reporting to public health officials vary by state. Contact the Council Health Supervisor and camp director if a suspected or known communicable disease occurs at a Scouting event.

**OBSERVATION SUGGESTIONS:** When is it safe to return to “play” if a communicable disease is diagnosed or suspected? The following are some general guidelines to reduce the incidence of spreading communicable diseases. If there is any uncertainty about whether a participant is infectious or a disease is communicable, a physician should be consulted.

- Isolation from the rest of the group is recommended until the ill participant can be evaluated or observed long enough to assure that he or she does not need to be sent home.
- A participant with fever (100.4 F or higher) should not participate in group events until he or she is without fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medicines (e.g., acetaminophen, ibuprofen, etc.).
- A participant with diarrhea should not participate until the diarrhea has subsided for at least 24 hours.
- A participant with pink eye (conjunctivitis), cough, or sore throat should be evaluated and should not return to the event until symptoms have resolved.

## References

- BSA Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist: [www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-102\\_PreEventChklist.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-102_PreEventChklist.pdf)
- Boy Scouts of America—Incident Reporting Tool: [www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/)
- *Scouts BSA Handbook for Boys/Scouts BSA Handbook for Girls*—Personal First-Aid Kit, p. 108
- American Academy of Pediatrics, [healthychildren.org](http://healthychildren.org)—Choosing an Insect Repellent for Your Child: [www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-play/Pages/Insect-Repellents.aspx](http://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-play/Pages/Insect-Repellents.aspx)
- American Academy of Pediatrics, [healthychildren.org](http://healthychildren.org)—Immunizations: [www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/default.aspx)
- Mayo Clinic Patient Care & Health Information—Infectious Diseases: [www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/infectious-diseases/home/ovc-20168649](http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/infectious-diseases/home/ovc-20168649)
- North Carolina Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center—Cleaning and Sanitizing: What’s the difference and how are they done? [https://ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov/Portals/0/documents/pdf/B/bleach\\_solution\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](https://ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov/Portals/0/documents/pdf/B/bleach_solution_fact_sheet.pdf)
- World Health Organization—Glove Use Information Leaflet: [www.who.int/gpsc/5may/Glove\\_Use\\_Information\\_Leaflet.pdf](http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/Glove_Use_Information_Leaflet.pdf)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Recommended Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/0-18yrs-child-combined-schedule.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/0-18yrs-child-combined-schedule.pdf)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—When & How to Wash Your Hands: [www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html](http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Coughing & Sneezing: [www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/etiquette/coughing\\_sneezing.html](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/etiquette/coughing_sneezing.html)

## **Online Resources during the Covid-19 Pandemic (and beyond?)**

Minsi Trails has a lot of online programming to help you and your Scouts and more is on the way. See it at:

<http://www.minsitrails.org/resources/virtual-programming/>

To find the most current information about Minsi Trails Council during the pandemic, go to

<http://www.minsitrails.org/update/72747>

Get ready for Pinewood Derby, virtually:

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/12/15/get-ready-for-pinewood-derby-with-these-virtual-events/>

National BSA COVID-19 FAQs:

<https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus/covid-19-faq/>

Many of you already know that *Bryan on Scouting* is a great resource and he has a good deal of information about doing Scouting online:

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/>

## **Den Leaders Facebook Group Helps with At Home Activities**

Cub Scout Den Leaders (and other interested adult pack leaders) can share information on Minsi Trails Council's Den Leaders Facebook Private Group. Do a Facebook search for "Minsi Trails Den Leaders" and it should be first in the results. If you have a Facebook login, you can also find the group by visiting Minsi Trails Council's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pg/minsitrailsbsa>) and clicking on the Groups link), Take a look. If it's of interest, ask to join.

If anyone has links or resources that they would like to share, contact me at [newsletter@minsi-northampton.com](mailto:newsletter@minsi-northampton.com)

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Three part series from Northern New Jersey Council, recorded on YouTube and on their channel.

Part 1 - 'How to Run a Virtual Meeting' - <https://youtu.be/8vkAhD1C1tg>.

Part 2 - 'How to Plan/Run a Virtual DEN' - <https://youtu.be/urQioxD3Afs>.

Part 3 - "Activities and Parent Involvement" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgNeZStXwIM>

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For recruiting and membership help, visit Minsi Trails' Membership and Marketing Hub at <https://www.minsitrails.org/resources/membership-marketing-hub/>

Video from the recent council-wide roundtable on recruiting youth and adults will soon be available on the Membership and Marketing Hub.





## Restart Scouting Checklist

As always, the safety of our Scouts, volunteers, employees and communities is our top priority. This checklist outlines several minimum guiding protocols that adult leaders/volunteers must consider while working with local and state health departments, local councils, chartered organizations and Scouting families on when and how to resume meetings, service projects, camping and all other official Scouting activities.

*If it is not practical to meet these minimal protocols, do not restart in-person activities.*

### **S = Supervision**

- ☐ Understand local and state guidance on preventing COVID-19 exposure.
- ☐ Engage your chartered organization and local council on necessary adjustments.
- ☐ Conduct the “before you gather” protocols.

### **A = Assessment**

- ☐ Identify participants who fall under the CDC’s group of higher-risk individuals. Notify all participants about the risks of participating since COVID-19 exposure cannot be eliminated.
- ☐ Verify that the planned activity, gathering or group sizes are not prohibited by local or state orders.

### **F = Fitness and Skill**

- ☐ Review Annual Health and Medical Records and consider using a [pre-event screening](#) for all participants.

### **E = Equipment and Environment**

- ☐ Verify that handwashing, hygiene and cleaning supplies are available and used properly.
- ☐ Monitor social distancing, interactions and sharing of equipment and food among participants.
- ☐ Monitor participants for changing health conditions.
- ☐ Use the “as you gather” protocols.

## **SAFE $\neq$ Risk-Free**

As the response to the pandemic shifts to a state-focused, phased approach, the Boy Scouts of America advises local councils to consult with their local and state health departments, as well as local chartered partners, to implement appropriate protocols to help keep our members, volunteers and employees safe.

Precautions and mitigation strategies are important, but they cannot eliminate the potential for exposure to COVID-19 or any other illness when in-person activities resume.

People with COVID-19 may show no signs or symptoms of illness, but they can spread the virus. Some people may be contagious before their symptoms occur. The fact is that someone with COVID-19 may pass the required health screenings and be allowed into program activities.

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 resuming in-person Scouting activities.

***Every member, volunteer and family must evaluate their unique circumstances and make an informed decision before attending in-person activities.***

***We hope this information will be helpful as you make that choice.***

For updates, please monitor

<https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus>

## Before you gather:

- ☐ **Consult** your council and chartered organization to understand community standards and protocols in place.
- ☐ **Communicate** to all parents and youth that the Boy Scouts of America recommends that no one in the higher-risk category take part in person. Continue to engage virtually.
- ☐ **Communicate** that anyone who feels sick must [stay home](#). If you become sick or develop symptoms, isolate yourself then go home and seek care.
- ☐ **Educate and train** all participants on appropriate social distancing, [cleaning and disinfecting](#), [hand hygiene](#) and [respiratory \(cough or sneeze\) etiquette](#) before meeting for the first time. Periodically reinforce the behaviors as needed.
- ☐ **Before attending**, upon arrival and at least daily for longer events, all participants [should be screened](#) for any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Chills
  - Repeated shaking with chills
  - Muscle pain
  - Headache
  - Sore throat
  - Loss of taste or smell
  - Diarrhea
  - Feeling feverish or having a temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
  - Known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19
- ☐ **As appropriate**, participants should have [face coverings](#) available to wear when gathering or when in public areas or venues. Several coverings per person may be needed.
- ☐ **Communicate** that those who take part in person should avoid contact with higher-risk individuals for 14 days after the event.

## As you gather:

- ☐ **Minimize group sizes.** Small groups of participants who stay together all day every day, remain [6 feet apart](#) and do not share objects are at the lowest risk. Think of a den or patrol that does not mix or gather with other dens or patrols, with supervision that stays with the small group. *Scouting's [Barriers to Abuse](#) always apply.*
- ☐ **Stay local** to your geographic area and groups for unit activities. If you must travel, limit mixing with others along the way.
- ☐ **Minimize mixing** with parents or siblings unless they are part of the unit activity. For example, the same parent picks up and drops off youth, and stays in the car. No guests or visitors who have not been through the pre-gathering protocols and screening should take part.
- ☐ **Have hand sanitizer**, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available for use at meetings, activities and campouts.
- ☐ **Minimize the use** of common areas and shared tools. If unavoidable, they should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between uses.
- ☐ **Develop dining protocols** (including but not limited to):
  - No self-serve buffet meals or common water coolers.
  - Use of disposable utensils, napkins, cups and plates.
  - Clean and disinfect eating and cooking gear after each use.
- ☐ **Develop tenting protocols** for the group:
  - Minimize use of fans or devices that stir the air.
  - Campers should sleep head-to-toe in bunks or cots spaced as far apart as possible.
  - Individual tents, hammocks and bivys may be considered.
- ☐ **During program activities:**
  - Equipment that must be shared should be disinfected before and after each use.
  - Where possible, assign activity-related protective equipment for the duration of an event to a single individual (life jacket, gloves, harness).
  - Effective handwashing before and after each program area use.
- ☐ **In case of an injury or illness**, promptly report the incident, including COVID-19 exposures. Utilize [Incident Reporting Resources](#), including COVID-19 instructions.

## When you get home:

- ☐ **Avoid contact** with higher-risk individuals for 14 days.
- ☐ **Monitor** for any signs of illness for 14 days, and
- ☐ **Communicate** with your unit leadership should you develop symptoms.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
HEALTH AND SAFETY



## BSA SAFETY MOMENT USING A SAFETY MOMENT IN SCOUTING ACTIVITIES

### SUMMARY

**What do nuclear power plants, construction sites, aircraft carriers, and many hospitals have in common with Scouting? All constantly look for ways to eliminate hazards that could be life altering or fatal. One tool used by many safety-conscious groups is the safety moment or safety briefing that starts each meeting or activity with a pause to discuss a hazard or risk that can be prevented. The safety moment focuses the attention of the group on safety and how to achieve it. That's the "why" of the safety moment. Let's address the who, what, when, where, and how next.**

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Who** can deliver a safety moment? Anyone who is willing to be prepared and to step up. Ideally, each Scout or Scouter (with some preparation) could step up and make a difference within his or her unit or group.

**When** and **where** should a safety briefing be delivered? At the beginning of a meeting or just before an activity—especially one that has some risk such as shooting, climbing, or aquatic activities.

**What** makes a great safety moment? Almost anything that focuses or educates the audience on a safety topic. The BSA publishes several [safety moments](#), and new topics are being developed on a regular basis. Other topics can include the use of [checklists](#) or safety tools such as [PAUSE](#) or focus on something such as hydration, safe driving, or simply the location of fire extinguishers or evacuation routes. The *Guide to Safe Scouting*, the [Scouting Safely website](#), and the Health and Safety newsletters are also great sources of ideas. If you have information that's accurate, don't shy away from discussing injuries or other incidents that occurred during a recent outing as long as the focus is on learning and prevention. Make it simple and easy to understand, and help the learners know how to apply the message.

**How** should the message be delivered? All messages should be delivered using facts and simple language and should be appropriate to the audience. Using a handout, slides, or a demonstration will help assure that those who hear the message understand it and know how to apply it. The message should be delivered in just a few minutes. Don't belabor the point or make it difficult.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

*Guide to Safe Scouting*—[www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx)

Safety Moments—[www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/Safety\\_Moments.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/Safety_Moments.aspx)

Scouting PAUSE—[www.scouting.org/filestore/healthsafety/pdf/680-046.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/healthsafety/pdf/680-046.pdf)

Checklists—[www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS/gssax.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS/gssax.aspx)

Health and Safety newsletters—[www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety.aspx)



# You *know* you can do most training online?

*Why not do it now and become a better leader?*

<https://my.scouting.org/>



**JAN 10** [Weather-Ready Nation Scouting Event](#)

VIRTUAL Weather-Ready Nation Scouting Event — SIGN UP TODAY! <https://wrnscoutevent.wixsite.com/wrnscoutevent> The American Meteorological...

**JAN 12** [BSA Leave No Trace 101 Awareness](#)

**FEB 13** [Unit Commissioner / District Commissioner / Asst. District Commissioner](#)

Commissioner Training Information will be emailed to you leading up to the trainings. This will be an online virtual training ~...

**MAR 13** [2021 University of Scouting](#)

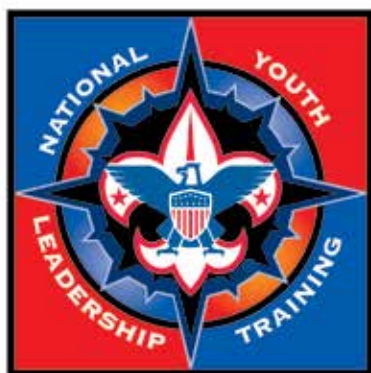
**MAY 15** [Basic Commissioner Training and Basic Round-Table Training](#)

Commissioner Training. 2 Courses offered, must select one. A trained Commissioner is an effective Commissioner! Commissioner...

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## National Youth Leadership Training 2021 Registration will soon be open!

The course will be held Wednesday, August 5 through Monday, August 9, 2021



For more information, visit:

<http://www.minsitrails.org/nylt/>

Ask any one who's taken it,  
you should take

# WOOD BADGE



Sign up for N5-502-21, the 2021 Wood Badge course hosted by Minsi Trails Council on August 20-22, 2021 and September 18-19, 2021 (2-weekend course) at Akelaland. Learn cutting edge leadership skills that go beyond Scouting and enhance your professional and personal life as well.

Learn more about the course at <http://www.minsitrails.org/training/wood-badge/60722>

Registration opens soon.

Read about the history of Wood Badge at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wood\\_Badge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wood_Badge)



## NORTHAMPTON DISTRICT COMMITTEE

District Chair	Ed Caruth		<a href="mailto:elcaruth@gmail.com">elcaruth@gmail.com</a>
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District Vice Chair Administration	Jason Simms		
District Technology Chair			
Webmaster	Greta Bergstresser		
Safety Chair			
Membership Standards Chair			
Youth Protection Chair			
Finance Chair			
Family FOS Chair	Bob Obermeyer		
	Bill Brugger		
Popcorn Chair			
Dollars for Doers Coordinator	Lee Ann Gallagher		
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Cub Scout Membership Chair			
Scouts BSA Membership Chair			
New Unit Coordinator			
Exploring Chair			
Marketing Chair			
Scoutreach Chair			
District Vice Chair Operations			
Outdoor Programs Chair			
Cub Scout Resident Camp Chair			
Cub Scout Day Camp Chair			
Activities Chair	Kristy Simms		
Cub Scout Activities Chair			
Scouts BSA Activities Chair			
Scouting For Food Chair	Rev Hardin		
Advancement Chair	Jim Daley		
Cub Scout Advancement Chair	Michael Philipp		<a href="mailto:michaelphilipp9193@gmail.com">michaelphilipp9193@gmail.com</a>
Eagle Scout Chair	Jim Daley		
Merit Badge Counselor Chair	Irene Arno		
	Bruce Horton		
Scouts BSA Advancement Chair	Bill Gade		
Training Chair			
Cub Scout Leader Training Chair			
Scouts BSA Leader Training Chair			
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*Any Scouter interested in serving on the District Committee, contact Ed Caruth  
or if interested in serving as a Commissioner, contact Bill Kropa.*