

Scouts Canada - Cascadia

COVID-19 Safety Plan for Outdoor Adventures and Overnight Camps

Regional Restrictions: Northern Health:

- **Inside Events:** Requires a Covid-19 safety plan, face coverings, and evidence of vaccination for people 12 and older; **Maximum of 50 people.**
- **Outside Events:** Requires a Covid-19 safety plan, face coverings, and evidence of vaccination for people 12 or older. **Maximum of 100 people**

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 Address:	
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 Scout Group

Patrol: A “patrol” is a general Scouting term for a small team within a section. 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.

Vaccine Mandate

As of November 1, 2021, all eligible youth, adult members, participants, and staff must be fully vaccinated to take part in in-person activities. This includes indoor and outdoor activities, and meetings.

For more detailed information, please visit [Scouts Canada's Covid-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Safety Guidelines & Standards

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

Both indoor and outdoor organized activities are permitted.

- Outdoor gatherings have a capacity of 5,000 people or 50% capacity, whichever is greater.
- Indoor gatherings have a limit of 50% capacity of building/facility.

We still encourage all Scouting in-person activities to maintain patrols within sections.

When conducting both indoor and outdoor meetings, youth members and scouters are encouraged to minimize physical contact.

When conducting indoor activities, the building must be well -ventilated, offer enough space to reduce involuntary physical contact.

Masks are required in all public indoor settings for all people born in 2016 or earlier (5+).

- [Please reference face mask guidelines](#) for further instruction on requirements and exemptions.

If permitted by local authorities, campfires are permitted.

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.

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.

- 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.

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.
- Youth sharing tents/shelters must be spaced 1m apart from each other and be oriented in a head-to-toe (opposite) configuration.
- Youth participants may not share accommodation with youth from older or younger Sections.

Indoor Accommodations:

- Sleeping in hard-sided tents, Adirondack shelters, individual huts or other camp buildings is permitted.
 - Door and windows with screens should be left open to help with ventilation.
- Large buildings, halls or other facilities are allowed for overnight accommodation.
 - Overnight camps or sleep overs are permitted only within patrols, providing patrols maintain separation (minimum of 2m) from other patrols for the duration of the activity.
- Masks should be worn in camper accommodation and only removed when in their bed for sleeping.
- Sleeping accommodations should provide a 1 metre physical distance between the heads of

individuals, or if heads cannot be 1 metre apart, temporary barriers may be used (curtains, sheets).

- For bunk beds, position the head of the camper in the top bunk opposite the position of the camper in the bottom bunk.
- For side-by-side beds, position the campers head-to-toe.
- For end-to-end beds, position the campers toe-to-toe where possible, and otherwise head-to-toe to maximize distance between heads.

In indoor spaces, people should have enough room to carry out the intended activity without involuntarily physical contact with another person.

Food provisions for Overnight Camps

Cooking in patrols in patrols is recommended, 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. 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.

- Self-serve food and beverage stations are permitted; however, camps should only provide self-serve options if campers are capable of following hand sanitizing and physical distancing guidance. If there is a self-serve food or drink station:
 - Hand washing facilities or alcohol-based sanitizers must be within easy reach of the station.
 - Signs reminding patrons to wash or sanitize their hands before touching self-serve food, drink or other items, must be posted at the self-serve station.
 - High touch surfaces at the station, and utensils that are used for self-serve, must be regularly cleaned and sanitized.
- All persons will practice proper hand hygiene upon entry to the dining hall and after eating.
- All persons must wear a mask until they are seated at their table.
- Food distribution should ensure there is no gathering or crowding of campers and staff.
- Food can be served family-style, by staff-assisted buffet or pre-plated.
- Patrols may sit with each other – within 2 m of other patrols
- When possible, serve meals and snacks outside.
- Singing is not permitted in the dining hall.
- Loud talking should be avoided.
- Camps should emphasize that food and beverages should not be shared.
- Campers and staff should be encouraged to bring an individual water bottle or other beverage container to camp for their personal use to support hydration needs.
- Refilling stations can be used to refill personal containers. These should not include bathroom sinks or other water sources not typically used for drinking water.

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 allcamping 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.