

Guidance for Holding In-Person Eagle Project Activities in the Mid-Hudson Region

Purpose:

Due to the time-sensitive nature of Eagle Scout service projects for our current Life Scouts, we provide the following guidance for project activities including project workdays and fundraising activities.

Background:

Refer to the Council's email sent out on Friday evening, June 5th "Coronavirus Update 6/5/20", stating:

For guidance on whether or not your unit can have in-person meetings a unit must:

- *Have approval from the chartering organization*
- *Follow the local rules and regulations regarding limits of non-essential gatherings.*
(Currently NYS limits non-essential gatherings of fewer than 10 - 6/5/20)
- *Always wear face coverings and follow all social distance guidelines*

As the precautions we all need to take regarding the Coronavirus pandemic are constantly changing and evolving, please follow any current and future guidance from our local, state, and national health departments and governmental agencies. Such advice supersedes any guidance from the HVC.

The Hudson Valley Council ("HVC") continues to post guidance regarding precautions that should be taken at Scouting activities during the current coronavirus pandemic.

See webpage: <http://www.hudsonvalleyscouting.org/coronavirus>

Relevant guidance from Scouts BSA:

- [Restart Scouting Checklist](#) - 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.
- [Guide to Safe Scouting](#)
- [Youth Protection and Adult Leadership](#)
- [BSA Social Media Guidelines - Scouting Wire](#)
- [Digital Safety and Online Scouting Activities](#)
- [The Sweet Sixteen of BSA Safety](#)
- [Service Project Planning Guidelines](#)
- [Age Guidelines for Tool Use and Work at Elevations or Excavations](#)

Relevant Guidance From NYS Office of the Governor:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/executiveorders>

NYS Executive Order 202.17

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20217-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency>

Executive Order 202.17 says, "Effective at 8 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2020 any individual who is over age two and able to medically tolerate a face-covering shall be required to cover their nose and mouth with a mask or cloth face-covering when in a public place and unable to maintain, or when not maintaining, social distance.

6/25/2020

NYS Executive Order 202.33

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20233-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency>

Executive Order 202.33 says, "Executive Order 202.10, as later extended by Executive Order 202.18, Executive Order 202.29 and as extended and amended by Executive Order 202.32, which prohibited all non-essential gatherings of any size for any reason, except for any religious service or ceremony, or for the purposes of any Memorial Day service or commemoration, which allowed ten or fewer individuals to gather, provided that social distancing protocols and cleaning and disinfection protocols required by the Department of Health are adhered to is hereby modified to permit any non-essential gathering of ten or fewer individuals, for any lawful purpose or reason, provided that social distancing protocols and cleaning and disinfection protocols required by the Department of Health are adhered to."

NYS Executive Order 202.36

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20236-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency>

Executive Order 202.36 says, "Any region that meets the prescribed public health and safety metrics as determined by the Department of Health for Phase One reopening may allow outdoor, low-risk recreational activities and businesses providing such activities, as determined by Empire State Development Corporation, to be permitted to operate, in accordance with Department of Health guidance."

NYS Executive Order 202.38

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20238-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency>

Executive Order 202.38 says, "EO 202.35 which continued EO 202.33 us hereby modified to permit any non-essential gatherings for houses of worship at no greater than 25% of the indoor capacity of such location, provided it is in a geographic area in Phase 2 of re-opening, and further provided that social distancing protocols and cleaning and disinfection protocols required by the Department of Health are adhered to.

NYS Executive Order 202.42

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20242-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency>

Executive Order 202.42 says, "The directive contained in Executive Order 202.35, as extended and as amended by Executive Order 202.38, which amended the directive in Executive Order 202.10 that limited all non-essential gatherings to ten or fewer individuals, is hereby further modified to allow twenty-five (25) or fewer individuals, for any lawful purpose or reason, provided that the location of the gathering is in a region that has reached Phase 3 of the State's reopening, and social distancing protocols and cleaning and disinfection protocols required by the Department of Health are adhered to.

The Mid Hudson Region NY Forward Phase Reopening Schedule:

Phase 1 - Began May 26th / permits non-essential gatherings of 10 or fewer

Phase 2 - Began June 9th / permits non-essential gatherings of 10 or fewer

Phase 3 - Scheduled to begin on June 23rd / permits non-essential gatherings of 25 or fewer

Phase 4 - Scheduled to begin on July 7th / number of persons at non-essential gatherings to be determined

Clarification for Phase 1:

Although an Eagle project may include construction type activities, a Boy Scout troop is not in the Construction Industry, Phase 1 does not apply to Eagle projects.

6/25/2020

Eagle Project Activities Involving In-person, Non-essential Activities:

The Life Scout and Unit must follow the BSA's Restart Scouting Checklist:

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.

In addition, before scheduling an activity or workday the Scout **must** obtain the following authorizations:

- **The scout must work with unit leadership relative to project plans and schedules, in advance.** The health and safety of those working on Eagle projects must be integrated into project execution. Since an Eagle Scout service project is a Unit activity, unit adult leadership has the same responsibility to assure safety in conducting a project as with any other unit activity. The candidate should plan for safe execution, but it must be understood that minors cannot and must not be held responsible for safety concerns. (GTA 9.0.2.14 Risk Management and Eagle Scout Service Projects) The Eagle Scout Rank
- **The unit leadership having been approved by the Chartering Partner represents the Chartering Organization and must assure all guidelines from the Chartering Partner are followed.** The Chartering Organization has been and continues to be the local authority and the owner of the unit regarding any unit plans, activities and procedures. The Chartering Organization conducts the Scouting program through its charter from the Boy Scouts of America, and the Scouting units and their leaders belong to the Chartering Organization and are part of its “family.” Therefore, unit leadership must work with their Chartering Organization Representatives to plan appropriate Scouting activities and health and safety precautions. THE ANNUAL UNIT CHARTER AGREEMENT and THE CHARTERED ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE GUIDEBOOK
- **The Project Beneficiary Representative must approve all activities at their location.** Property owners are responsible for issues and hazards related to their property or employees and any other individuals or circumstances they would normally be responsible for controlling.
Navigating the Eagle Scout Service Project

When gaining approval for an in-person activity from the Chartering Organization and Beneficiary, it is **strongly recommended** to consider the following:

- Request written approval from your Chartering Organization and Beneficiary for holding the activity/workday in the form of an email or letter. Have a copy of this approval with you during your workday, and keep a copy safe with your Eagle paperwork.
- In addition to the detailed safety plan normally included in the Planning Section of your Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook, create a detailed plan for how you will follow all local, state, and federal health, safety, and social distancing guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Creating this plan will require reviewing the current regulations and guidance from the county, state and federal websites. Work with the Chartering Organization, Beneficiary, and Unit Leadership to develop the plan.
 - **Restart Scouting Checklist**
 - NY FORWARD SAFETY PLAN TEMPLATE (fillable PDF form)
 - **Center for Disease Control**
 - **New York State Coronavirus Website**
 - **Pennsylvania Commonwealth Coronavirus Website**

- [Dutchess County Coronavirus Website](#)
- [Orange County Coronavirus Website](#)
- [Pike County Coronavirus Website](#)
- [Rockland County Coronavirus Website](#)
- [Sullivan County Coronavirus Website](#)
- Request written approval from your Chartering Organization and Beneficiary for your health and safety plan, in the form of an email or letter. Have a copy of your plan, and the written approval, with you during your workday, and keep a copy safe with your Eagle paperwork.

During workdays:

- All Scouts, Scouters, and other volunteers must follow all local, state, and federal health, safety, and social distancing guidelines and all local health department rules and regulations related to COVID-19 for non-essential gatherings, including, but not limited to:
 - CDC guidelines for “[How to Protect Yourself & Others](#)” from Covid-19
NY Forward Protect Yourself and Your Family from Coronavirus (COVID-19)
https://forward.ny.gov/protect-yourself-and-your-family-coronavirus-covid-19?gclid=CjwKCAjwxLH3BRApEiwAqX9arfVIMp78OO-tdFpucdB_Qa--OK5YOVxjfRkbCGVKZbQNsLhqGbVQthoCozAQAvD_BwE
 - How to wear face coverings correctly in public [Face Masks and Coverings for COVID-19](#)
- The Unit Leadership is responsible for determining what safety protocols are required and prudent for the activity, for making sure all safety protocols are in place, and for making sure they are followed throughout the activity. This is especially true during the COVID-19 Pandemic and therefore safety protocols must address all current local, state, and federal health and safety guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Eagle Project Activities:

In accordance with social distancing practices, Scouts may work on Eagle projects with their immediate families with whom they live. Pre-approved* activities/workdays that involve one family working together is an acceptable means of completing a portion of a project.

*This plan should involve and be approved by the unit Key 3.

Eagle Service Projects Underway:

- If Eagle candidates have not yet begun physical work on a project, which cannot be reasonably conducted in accord with pandemic safety precautions, he might consider modifications to the project, or another project altogether. Remember that such changes MUST be reviewed by the unit, beneficiary and district review board.
- If the service project is considered to be beyond the “point of no return,” and if timing is critical (i.e., completing all requirements before the Scout’s 18th birthday, as well as the added issues of leaving for college) the Scout should consider continuing with the project as much as is safely possible, and applying for an extension in time through the HVC ASAP. Note that such time extensions are ultimately decided by the BSA National Office. [Advancement Overview](#)
- Avoid in-person gatherings; instead, utilize available digital and online resources (such as video conferencing, phone, email, social networking) to keep the project moving forward. Continue planning, fundraising, completing the Workbook, and working on aspects of the project that can be done remotely. Adhere to the current youth protection guidelines already in place for digital communications.

- Electronic or digital signatures on the workbook and ESRA will be accepted until Sept. 30, 2020.
- Provide regular status updates to the Project Beneficiary, Scoutmaster, and Project Coach.

Eagle Project Fundraising Applications and Efforts:

Fundraising activities must also be conducted in accord with pandemic safety guidelines, even if those activities were previously approved by the Council or District. **If this cannot be accomplished, an updated fundraising application must be submitted for review.** Review of all new incoming fundraising applications will be in accord with social distancing guidelines.

- Any group fundraising activities **must** follow the “*Eagle Project Activities Involving In-person, Non-essential Activities*” as described above. These include, but are not limited to car-wash, bake sales, spaghetti dinners, restaurant nights, movie nights, etc.

Certain fundraising activities, e.g., spaghetti dinners, bowling nights, car washes, etc., may be difficult to conduct in a traditional manner due to COVID guidelines, which will change from time-to-time. Be aware that all such fundraising activities must be conducted in accord with current local and state guidelines and be conducted with the approval of unit and charter organization leadership.

- Crowdfunding and fundraising by phone/mail/email are safe fundraising options which will avoid physical contact. Follow all BSA safety guidelines.

CDC: How to Protect Yourself & Others

Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing serious complications from COVID-19 illness. More information on [Are you at higher risk for serious illness.](#)

Know how it spreads

- There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.
- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
 - Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
 - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
 - These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
 - Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

Everyone Should

Wash your hands often

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, even inside your home. If possible, maintain 6 feet between the person who is sick and other household members.
- Put distance between yourself and other people outside of your home.
 - Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.
 - Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.
 - Keeping distance from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others

- You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
- Everyone should wear a cloth face cover when they have to go out in public, for example to the grocery store or to pick up other necessities.
 - Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
- Do NOT use a facemask meant for a healthcare worker.
- Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing.

Cover coughs and sneezes

- If you are around others and do not have on your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow and do not spit.
- Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean and disinfect

- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- If surfaces are dirty, clean them. Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- Then, use a household disinfectant. Most common EPA-registered household disinfectants
- external icon
- will work.

Monitor Your Health

- Be alert for symptoms. Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.
 - Especially important if you are running essential errands, going into the office or workplace, and in settings where it may be difficult to keep a physical distance of 6 feet.
- Take your temperature if symptoms develop.
 - Don't take your temperature within 30 minutes of exercising or after taking medications that could lower your temperature, like acetaminophen.
- Follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.