



Boy Scouts of America

Greater Los Angeles Area Council

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS CAMP USAGE (Day Use) and SWITCHING COHORTS NOVEMBER 18, 2020

Since September the Greater Los Angeles Area Council has recommended that units consider utilizing Council properties for den and patrol meetings using day camp protocols. Events under the Council day camp setting are governed by LA County day camp protocols. The County allows activities in a day camp setting under direct Council supervision. In the day camp setting, skill development and learning are a contemplated activity.

Starting December 5, 2020, we will strengthen our available meeting times for Den/Patrol meetings and activities at Cabrillo, Cushman Watt Park, Firestone and Trask. Pack and Troop leadership will be able to reserve a four-hour time block for their dens/patrols at one of the four facilities mentioned above, subject to our Covid protocols. Look for the reservation links to go live on Wednesday, December 2, 2020.

Days/Time Blocks available are:

Cabrillo, Firestone, Trask, and Cushman Watt Day Use – Saturdays and Sundays beginning December 5.

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

To assist units in making use of our camps (under LA County Day Camp protocols), we are offering the use of our valley camps (Cabrillo, Firestone, Trask and the Cushman Watt Service Center Park) at **no** per person daily use charge. Dens and Patrols may utilize a space at one of our camps to host a small group meeting or small group sports activity at no charge through February. However, for structured program usage (example: archery, BB-Guns, merit badge camps, etc.), then there will be a fee to cover the cost of the program.

We hope that this will increase the ability of our units to host a meeting, celebration, or small youth sports activity at our valley camps over the next three months.

For current available meeting options, the Council program matrix is:

<https://www.glaacbsa.org/files/33887/in-person-program-matrix.pdf>

- Important Resources -

Tour Plan: <https://www.glaacbsa.org/TourPermit>

GLAAC: <https://www.glaacbsa.org/ReopeningWebinar>

Continued

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Youth Sports Exemption for Scouting Programs

The small youth sports activity exemption approved by the Council is summarized in the program matrix referenced above. The unit leader must fill out Council's COVID protocol required tour plan as part of the small group sports outdoor exemption for the Council. It must be done before each outing.

The LA County link is current as of today. A unit must go to the LA County website prior to any outing to verify whether the health orders have been modified. If modified, the unit must follow the modification.

Any unit seeking to implement the small youth sports activity exemption must implement all LA County Health Orders regarding the Small Youth Sports Exemption:

http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/protocols/Reopening_YouthSportsLeagues.pdf

A small youth sports activity cohort is based upon a family's actual household members. California defines the requirements for stable cohorts:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/small-groups-child-youth.aspx>

If a Scout is in a crew, troop, or pack, and another family member is in another unit, patrol, den, or crew, the family will have to pick one (1) discrete cohort to participate in. In virtually all cases, it will be difficult for multiple Scouts in the same family to participate in different cohort activities (unless there is an express exemption provided by LA County such as in-person school attendance). LA County Health requires that the household be part of a single discrete cohort (regardless whether adults or youths). Thus, parents cannot be part of different cohorts. The point is to minimize spread, as much as possible.

The waiting period is 15 days (14 days + 1) after the last meeting. On the 15th day, the Scout may switch assuming there has been no positive COVID exposure (or illness symptomology) within the cohort during the prior 15 days. Essentially, any time a youth joins a new cohort, the cohort timing for the all participants in the new cohort resets back to "day 1" and 15 days must elapse before anyone in the new cohort may join another one. The County does not want youths to switch in and out constantly so stable-over-time cohorts are preferred given the complexity of verification.

If a cohort gets a new member, the new member cannot have been part of another cohort within 15 days of the last contact with the old cohort. If a Scout was not part of any known cohort (whether within Scouting or some other organization and affirmative inquiry with the Scout and the Scout's family is required), then that new person may join immediately. However, a cohort is defined by California as ANY small group and/or cluster of non-household members. Thus, if the Scout was part of a school youth sports cohort or some other cohort, the Scout cannot be with the old cohort and with a new cohort simultaneously. Again, LA County and California do not want households to be part of different (and otherwise unrelated) cohorts.

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A small youth sports activity cohort must primarily engage in an outdoor exercise (hiking, cycling, walking, sports and fitness badges, etc.) activity. The small youth sports activity health order assumes that the 12 youths and the 2 adults will maintain physical distancing, PPE and the activity occurs in the outdoors with continuous movement (i.e., exercise) as the primary activity. We recognize that Scouts in the Lion and Tiger programs must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all Scouting activities. Taking that into consideration, the maximum cohort size will be increased to a maximum of 18 (9 youth and 9 adults). A cohort may take breaks and rest with proper physical distancing of 6+ feet. During the exercise portion, the cohort must be separated by greater than 9+ feet.

The purpose of the small youth sports activity exemption is exercise and practice. Thus, a unit must ensure that the primary (51%+) purpose of the activity is followed. Cohorts may intersperse rest periods where the participants are seated (in the outdoors with a 6 ft spread, of course). A unit should follow these requirements in good faith and not exercise for first 50% of the activity and “rest” for the last 50%. The rest periods should be broken up to allow for actual resting and actual participation in the sports activity. Discussion may occur during the rest periods and units must be mindful that care is taken during rest periods not to share any equipment/materials amongst participants.