



# 2020 Summer Programs Cancellation Frequently Asked Questions

**\*\*Updated May 15, 2020\*\***

**As a result of the Monmouth Council's unwavering commitment to the health and safety of its Scouts and volunteers, the difficult decision was made to cancel all in-person summer camps and programs for 2020. Below are answers to frequently asked questions surrounding this important decision.**

## **Why did you make this decision?**

The safety and well-being of our Scouts and leaders is our first priority in every activity that we conduct, and summer camp is no exception. After having considered all updated reports, guidelines, and projected timelines provided by the Center for Disease Control, The States of New York and New Jersey, local county Health Departments, National Council BSA, and other agencies, it was unanimously determined that current and anticipated conditions would prevent Monmouth Council from administering in-person programs this summer while maintaining the council's unwavering commitment to the health and safety of its scouts and leaders, particularly in effectively preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

## **Why was this decision made now?**

Supplies must be ordered well in advance in order to conduct the high-quality program experience for which Monmouth Council has become known. Most vendors have advised the council that due to the world-wide impact of the COVID-19 virus, a delay in the production and shipping times of critical program and safety supplies should be expected. Backdating from the anticipated delivery date of these supplies adjusted for the expected delays, led to the need for this decision to be made now. Making this decision before ordering these supplies will allow the Monmouth Council to offer **full** refunds of all camp fees paid, including what is typically considered a non-refundable deposit, something that will certainly be appreciated by families who are facing financial hardships at this time.

## **Who made this decision?**

A task force of volunteers from the council's program, camping & properties, enterprise risk management, Commissioner Service and health and safety committees, worked diligently alongside summer camp staff and council leadership. After weeks of analysis of data, Parent surveys the task force unanimously

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determined that current and anticipated conditions would prevent Monmouth Council from administering in-person programs this summer at both Quail Hill and Forestburg Scout Reservations, while maintaining the council's unwavering commitment to the health and safety of its scouts and leaders, particularly in effectively preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The task force is committed to continuing its tireless work of monitoring changing conditions and endeavoring to create new programming opportunities that will allow scouts to safely socialize with friends, other Scouts and mentors over the summer months while continuing to build their scout skills and work towards advancing their rank. To that end, the task force welcomes all suggestions and ideas. Please email [monmouth.council@scouting.org](mailto:monmouth.council@scouting.org)

### **Does this decision affect National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)?**

NYLT programs in the Summer of 2020 (June-July course) have been canceled. We are still hopeful that we will be able to run a Fall course at this time.

### **What is the Monmouth Council's summer camp refund policy?**

In response to this cancelation and recognizing that many families are facing financial hardships at this time, the Monmouth Council is offering **full** refunds of all camp fees paid, including what is typically considered a non-refundable deposit. There are a few options available for how to handle this refund for you or your unit:

- Carry it over as a deposit towards the 2021 camping season, and lock in 2020 rates for the 2021 camping season. You may confirm your week of attendance at a later time.
- Leave your fees paid to date on account with the council to be applied to any of the new programming opportunities that are being developed over the next few weeks. If you choose this option and decide not to participate in any of the new programs, **a full refund will be made to you** as outlined below.
- Request a complete refund using one of the methods below:

#### Payment Processing Options:

Please be sure to let us know which camp and week you were scheduled for

- If you paid with a credit card via Tent-a-roo: easy refund back to the card used
- Check payment via council office.
- Monmouth Council units can elect to have the money deposited into their unit account.
- Regardless of payment method: refund can be put onto a MCBSA gift card. Instead of getting the money back via check, a unit can keep the money in a MCBSA "gift card" and use it towards a future payment with the Monmouth Council for units unsure of

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what Council./District event or camping trip they want to put the credit towards at this time.

- \*\*We ask that all units decide how they would like to handle the refund and notify us by June 19, 2020. The deadline to request a refund for 2020 Summer camps and programs is July 17, 2020.

### **You mentioned alternative programs. What programs are available to move our payment to?**

The council currently offers multiple virtual programs for Scouts of all ages through our Virtual Scouting program [Monmouthbsa.org/Virtualscouting](https://Monmouthbsa.org/Virtualscouting). In addition, The task force is committed to continuing its tireless work of monitoring changing conditions and endeavoring to create new programming opportunities in consultation with National and local best practices that will allow scouts to safely socialize with friends, other Scouts, and mentors over the summer months while continuing to build their Scout skills and work towards advancing their rank. To that end, the task force welcomes all suggestions and ideas. Updates on alternative programs will be emailed and featured on the council's social media sites.

### **Can troops come camping for a week or weekend to get outside experience camp? What about smaller groups like a patrol or a den?**

While recent state-level decisions of limited reopening are providing a "light at the end of the tunnel," for this pandemic, we remain vigilant in our commitment to safety. Therefore,

Monmouth Council camps are closed, and we continue to strongly discourage units from organizing and conducting any in-person activities and will not be issuing certificates of insurance on these activities at this time. This includes patrol and den activities. The council will continue to monitor changes in federal, state, and local restrictions around group gatherings and will relax these restrictions when appropriate and safe.

### **How can we provide an outdoor program for our Scouts this summer?**

We know how important being outdoors is for the growth and development of our youth. At this point in time, it is unknown when it will be safe for groups, including Scout units, to meet. While Governor Murphy's Stay at Home order remains in effect, the council encourages families to get outdoors in ways that they feel are safe and meaningful, yet consistent with all federal, state and local regulations. Over the next few weeks, the council task force is committed to continuing its tireless work of

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monitoring changing conditions and endeavoring to create new programming opportunities that will allow scouts to safely socialize with friends, other scouts and mentors over the summer months while continuing to build their Scout skills and work towards advancing their rank. To that end, the task force welcomes all suggestions and ideas. Please email [monmouth.council@scouting.org](mailto:monmouth.council@scouting.org)

**Have the BSA National High Adventure Bases decided to stay open?**

Visit the National Outdoor Adventures Group [COVID-19 Update page](#) for the most up-to-date information regarding the BSA National High Adventure Bases.

As of May 1, 2020, Northern Tier will open June 15, 2020 in Ely, MN and July 1, 2020 at Canadian locations. Sea Base will open not earlier than June 15, 2020 depending on location. The Summit will not open until July 1, 2020. Philmont cancelling all treks embarking before July 1.

**I heard the National Order of the Arrow Conference was also cancelled. How do we get a refund for that?**

The National Order of the Arrow Committee also made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 NOAC at Michigan State University. The refund process will be established in the coming days, and participants can expect an update from the NOAC Contingent leadership by May 20th with more information.

**Have other camps made the decision to close?**

Other councils within our region have also determined that current and anticipated conditions would prevent them from administering in-person programs this summer while maintaining an unwavering commitment to the health and safety of scouts and leaders, particularly in effectively preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and therefore have made the difficult decision to cancel summer camp and other summer programs.

**Who can we contact with additional questions?**

If you have questions remaining that are not addressed in this document, please email them to [monmouth.council@scouting.org](mailto:monmouth.council@scouting.org).

