



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS AND COVID-19

Will Monmouth Council have summer camp this year?

Yes, both Quail Hill Scout and Forestburg Scout Reservations will operate this summer. Quail Hill Scout Reservation (QHSR) will resume our popular Cub Scout Day Camp, as well as the Scouts BSA Summer Workshops that premiered last summer and the National Youth Leadership Training week. Forestburg Scout Reservation (FSR) will host resident camp for Scouts BSA units across five weeks of program.

What precautions will Monmouth Council take for the health and safety of summer camp participants?

As always, both camps will operate in accordance with the standards of the NJ/NY State Health Departments and the Boy Scouts of America. New Jersey has released specific requirements for COVID-19 safety in youth camps, which are substantially similar to the measures implemented last summer at Quail Hill. New York has yet to release specific rules regarding COVID-19 for children's camps, but we are prepared to adapt our program delivery.

Will programs be indoors or outdoors?

The CDC has emphasized the safety of outdoor activities and nearly all of our programs this summer will be exclusively outdoors. Quail Hill's participants will only move inside in the event of dangerous inclement weather. FSR's program activities are all outdoors with the exception of the Tech Center and with the same caveat regarding inclement weather.

Will participants be expected to wear masks?

Yes, we are asking Scouts and Scouters to bring at least two masks to camp and to wear them in situations where social distancing is impossible. We will follow the evolving guidance from the States of New Jersey and New York regarding when masks are appropriate.

How will our camps handle mealtimes safely?

Day campers at our Q.H.S.R. programs will bring bag lunches that they will eat in small den cohorts. NYLT participants will prepare their own food in patrol cohorts, with prescribed food safety rules, as will Dan Beard campers at FSR. Billet campers at FSR will eat in the dining hall with reduced capacities and cafeteria style dining. No family style or self-service will occur in any of these environments, masks will be used when not eating, and hand hygiene will be required prior to eating.

Will COVID-19 testing be required for attendance at summer camp?

Both the CDC and the State of New Jersey have recommended COVID-19 testing for participants at resident camps, but not day camp programs. As such, we will adhere to these requirements for NYLT, which is the only resident program offered at QHSR this summer. We await release of the specific requirements for New York State camps, which have yet to be released.

Will our camps require screening upon arrival?

Yes, both camps will screen for fever, COVID-19 signs/symptoms, and COVID-19 exposure upon arrival in camp. Participants in day camp programs at Quail Hill will be screened every day.

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In addition, units traveling to FSR for summer camp are expected to screen before departure to avoid any issues during travel or upon arrival.

What if someone shows symptoms at camp?

The State of New Jersey has provided specific procedures for an individual who displays signs and symptoms suspicious of COVID-19. We expect that New York State will do the same. Any individual for whom there is concern for COVID-19 will be immediately separated from the camp population and evaluated by our medical staff.

Do we expect that the recommended precautions will change before summer camp?

Yes, the guidance from health authorities regarding all our activities has changed on a constant basis throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We expect as cases continue to fall that the rules for summer camps will evolve, as well. Monmouth Council's leadership will continue to meet weekly to evaluate changes and make adaptations to our program delivery. The Council enjoys the support of a Health and Safety Committee of medical professionals, including our Camp Physician, in this effort. We will plan to keep unit leaders and parents informed as to changes with substantial impact.

For FSR, is the measles rule from the 2019 season in effect for 2021?

Yes, on 5/6/2021, Sullivan County NY re-issued this public health order, requiring proof of measles immunity for all those attending camp this summer (Scouts, adults, and staff). There are four ways to satisfy this requirement:

- 1) Documentation from a healthcare provider of at least one dose of MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine. School-aged children, college students, international travelers, or healthcare workers, are required to have documentation of two doses.
- 2) Laboratory evidence of immunity, which is called a titer.
- 3) Laboratory confirmation of measles infection. In other words, you had measles.
- 4) Born before January 1, 1957.

Per the order, we are permitted to allow "valid medical exemptions" only, as confirmed by a letter from a physician or other healthcare provider. The law does not allow for exemptions based on religious or philosophical reasons.

We will verify proof of immunity at the arrival screening for fever and COVID-19 symptoms.

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