

Transatlantic Council (TAC) and the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update on 24 October 2020

The safety of our youth members, volunteer leaders, staff, and employees continues to be the most important part of the TAC Scouting experience.

With the coronavirus (COVID-19) and its ever-changing impacts, you know that Transatlantic Council (TAC) has had to cancel all face-to-face council and district programs through 31 December 2020.

So, what does all this mean for your face-to-face unit programs? What should you do as a local TAC Scouting unit volunteer?

For your unit activities, we encourage you to remain strongly committed to the most important factor in any TAC Scouting event—the safety of your Scouts, parents, and leaders.

Follow this **Restart Scouting Checklist** to help you deliver the promise of TAC Scouting in your community.

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-693.pdf>

The Scouting program, as contained in our handbooks and literature, integrates many safety features. However, no policy or procedure will replace the review and vigilance of trusted adults and leaders at the point of program delivery. Be sure to engage and educate all participants in discussions about hazards and risks.

Monitor local current conditions and make appropriate decisions on whether to conduct face-to-face unit events, postpone them, or cancel them—as you consult with key unit leadership, as well as with advisories from local host country authorities.

If you decide to conduct a face-to-face unit activity, be sure to follow this pre-event medical screening.

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/pre-event-medical-screening/>

Practice social distancing (physical distancing) and ensure that the number of in-person attendees does not exceed the number currently permitted by the local authorities.

Share with your Scouts, parents, and leaders this safety moment on communicable disease.

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/communicable-disease-prevention/>

Follow these recommendations to prevent communicable diseases in Scouting.

[https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-103\(18\)_Prev_of_CommunicableDiseases.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-103(18)_Prev_of_CommunicableDiseases.pdf)

Review other BSA safety moments.

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/>

Continue to be prepared and stay resilient during unit programs:

- Set the example for safe behavior and proper equipment use
- Stress good hygiene and sneeze or cough into your elbow
- If you are sick, stay home and contact your physician
- Keep your physical distancing from others
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>
- Depending on local conditions, wear a mask
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks>
- Stay away from crowds and from those known to be ill
- Wash your hands well—for at least 20 seconds every time
<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>
- Keep surfaces clean with disinfectant wipes
- Forgo handshaking and other close forms of greetings
- If you have a germ on your hands, don't touch your eyes, mouth or nose
- Have virtual meetings (Zoom or Skype) as needed
- Limit gatherings for those most at risk (older adults and travelers with chronic medical conditions)

Commit yourself to create a safe and healthy environment.

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/>

Report incidents in a timely manner.

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/incident-reviews/>

Stay informed and review guidance from these resources.

Boy Scouts of America

<https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus/>

Guide to Safe Scouting

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/>

Transatlantic Council

<https://tac-bsa.org/BSA802page2592.php>

US Department of State

<https://www.state.gov/coronavirus/>

US Department of Defense

<https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/>

US Army Europe

<https://www.eur.army.mil/coronavirus/>

World Health Organization

<https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

World Health Organization/Europe

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/home>

World Health Organization/Africa

<https://www.afro.who.int/>

World Health Organization/Eastern Mediterranean

<http://www.emro.who.int/index.html>

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/current-risk-assessment-novel-coronavirus-situation>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): UK Government Response

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Also, **Virtual Scouting is thriving all around TAC!** Many units are carrying on their entire indoor programs on video: regular pack, troop, and crew Meetings; patrol and den meetings; merit badge and rank advancement sessions; committee meetings; elections; courts of honor and celebrations.

They're filling gaps from cancelled outdoor activities and school breaks with even more virtual programs. They're also joining in on virtual training, events and camporees from TAC districts, other BSA councils, and National BSA. They're delivering dynamic, engaging, comprehensive, and successful indoor Scouting programs and advancement, all virtually, without pause.

Scouting at Home programs have been created and delivered by many units and councils. Some of the very best moments show just how awesome Scouting at home can be.

<https://www.scouting.org/scoutingathome/>

A constant stream of great ideas and links is posted on our "TAC Nation" Facebook group. **TAC has also created a Pinterest page with many resources for virtual Scouting and online learning**—so you are invited to review and share these with others. <https://www.pinterest.com/tacnation802/>

When you conduct any online unit activity, be sure to follow guidance from the **BSA Digital Safety and Online Scouting Activities**

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/digital-safety-and-online-scouting-activities/>

This summer, TAC volunteers delivered an unparalleled **SpecTACular Summer Palooza**, outstanding virtual camp programs that reached over 500 Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA in TAC and 50 locations in 24 states and Puerto Rico.

Thank you for being part of the TAC Scouting movement and for creating an exciting and safe experience for every participant.

As the COVID-19 situation remains fluid, updates about the status of council and district activities will be shared via the TAC Connection and on the TAC website.

By following the latest advice from trusted officials and by taking a calm and measured approach, you can ensure that young people and adults can enjoy TAC Scouting activities safely.

Stay safe.

Tom

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P.S. Here is a sample COVID-19 “At-Risk Participant Statement” that you can share with your Scouts and parents for any face-to-face unit activities.

Your safety and the safety of all our members, volunteers, and parents is the top priority of Transatlantic Council and our local Scouting unit.

Considering COVID-19, we are taking additional precautions at our face-to-face unit activities on top of our long-established health and safety measures.

First, we have reviewed guidance from local health departments to ensure that we are aware of and follow their guidance to mitigate the risk of COVID-19.

Our mitigation plan includes:

- Pre-attendance education
- Health screening including a temperature check
- Screening of any visitors upon arrival
- Hygiene reminders throughout the unit activity
- Extra handwashing and sanitizer stations
- Cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces and shared program equipment
- Emergency response plan that includes isolation and quarantine protocol should a person at a unit activity develop symptoms of COVID-19 or other communicable disease.
- Check-ins one week and two weeks after a unit activity to determine if any participants have developed symptoms

These precautions are important, but they do not remove the potential for exposure to COVID-19 or any other illness while at the unit activity. Some people with COVID-19 show no signs or symptoms of illness but can still spread the virus and people may be contagious before their symptoms occur. These factors mean that an infected person may pass the required health screenings and be allowed to participate.

We also know that the very nature of any unit activity makes social distancing difficult in many situations and impossible in others.

Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. *If you are in this group, please ensure you have approval from your health care provider prior to attending any unit activity.*

We know that each Scout, parent, volunteer, and Scouting family has a unique set of circumstances to consider when deciding whether to participate in a unit activity. We hope this information will be helpful as you make those choices.