



Troop 54

Worcester, MA

COVID-19 Controls

Participant Screening

Upon arrival and at least daily, each participant will be screened using the [BSA Model Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist](#).

Non-participants who have not been screened as above will not be permitted to be present during the event (except to drop off and pick up a participant).

Social Distancing

Participants are required to maintain a distance of 6 feet from each other whenever possible. It is anticipated that some times this will not be possible will include some cooking and skills instruction. Brief transport by car (less than 30 minutes) is a possibility on some trips.

Face Masks

Participants are required to use a face mask whenever they are unable to socially distance themselves. For outdoor events, it is anticipated that participants will not be wearing face masks most of the time. Participants are to bring their own cloth masks. The Troop will have a supply of medical masks on hand as a backup.

Sanitation

Water will be available for hand washing either via a sink with running water or via a water jug with spigot at the camp site on front country (aka. car camping) trips. Troop leaders will supervise use of the jug to prevent and detect potential contamination, and they will sanitize the spigot frequently (ideally after each use) using a chlorine bleach solution sprayer.

Hand sanitizer will also be available.

Tents

Only participants who are sheltering together may share a tent, subject to existing Youth Protection rules. The Troop will provide sufficient single person tents to enable this on backpacking trips.

Dining

The potential for contamination during dining will be minimized as follows:

- The designated cooks for each meal will serve the food for that meal (no self-serve).
- The Troop will provide disposable utensils, napkins, cups and plates for use at meals (no mess kits), except on backwoods camping trips.
- Cooking gear will be disinfected after each use. On front country trips, we will utilize [chemical sanitization](#), and on back country trips, we will utilize hot water sanitization.

Program Activities

Some program materials (e.g., shovels, fishing rods) do not lend themselves to sanitization. Scouts will be reminded to wash or sanitize their hands after using shared materials.

Risk

In accordance with guidance from the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), people at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19 require physician approval to participate in an in-person troop activity. We define this as having any of the following risk factors (based on the CDC description as of 7/5/20):

- Age 65 or above
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
- Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 or higher)
- Serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Sickle cell disease
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

Despite the above measures, the risk of COVID-19 exposure cannot be eliminated. Higher-risk individuals should carefully consider their situations. The BSA recommends that no one in the higher-risk category take part in person.