

Update to Scouting Activities in the Greater Niagara Frontier Council, BSA

As of November 18, 2020

Earlier today New State Governor Andrew Cuomo placed most of the towns and communities in the Greater Niagara Frontier Council into a COVID Yellow or Orange Zone. This action requires the Council to make changes to the operations of the Scout Service Center, our 3 Camps, and the activities of our units. Effective immediately the following requirements are in place:

Orange Zone: Limited Operations

Council Office

- The Scout Service Center will remain open but, the Staff will be reduced to no more than 50% on site each day
- Field and Program Staff will continue to provide support from their homes – you can contact them via e-mail or phone (their office phones will be forwarded)
- Social distancing requirements will remain in place in the Scout Service Center including the requirement to maintain 6 feet of separation at all times and to wear masks throughout the building
- No more than 6 total visitors will be allowed in the Scout Service Center (including the Scout Shop) at any one time
- The Scout Shop Remains open but will be limited to no more than 2 people (or a family) in the store at a time
- All staff and visitors must complete a COVID-Screening form each day they come to the Office

All Council Camps

- All 3 Council Camps are Closed except for Outdoor Day use by groups of 10 or less
- Joint activities between groups are not allowed, and groups must maintain a safe distance from each other at all times
- All buildings are closed
- Social distancing requirements are in place including the requirement to wear masks
- Units must provide their own PPE including masks, sanitizer, and wipes
- All visitors must complete a COVID-Screening form each day at Camp

Unit Activities

- Units are required to follow all of the state and local guidelines of their community, based on the color of their zone including group size and location of meetings (see chart below for additional details)
- While units may meet in person if the locality allows it, the council strongly recommends that meetings are switched to virtual for the time being
- Social distancing requirements remain in place for all unit meetings and activities, including keeping 6 feet of separation and the wearing of masks
- All participants (youth and adult) at any unit meetings must complete a COVID-Screening Form. Forms must be maintained by the unit for at least 3 years.

As this is an evolving situation, adjustments will be made to these requirements on an on-going basis as additional guidance is provided to us from health and safety officials, government agencies, and health care professionals.

Type of Activity	RED	ORANGE (BUFFER & WARNING)	YELLOW (BUFFER & PRECAUTIONARY)
Worship	25% capacity 10 people maximum	33% capacity 25 people maximum	50% capacity
Mass Gathering	Prohibited	10 people maximum, indoor and outdoor	25 people maximum, indoors and outdoors
Businesses	Only essential businesses open	Closing high-risk non-essential business (gyms, personal care, etc.)	Open
Dining	Takeout/delivery only	Outdoor dining only, 4 person maximum per table	Indoor and outdoor dining, 4 person maximum per table
Schools	CLOSED Remote-only		Open Mandatory 20% weekly testing of students and teachers/staff for in-person settings.