



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
TIDEWATER COUNCIL

### COVID-19 Guidance for Tidewater Council Units Chartered in Virginia

As of November 16, 2020, Virginia's Governor Northam has tightened COVID-19 restrictions in relation to group gatherings:

*All public and private in-person gatherings of more than 25 individuals are prohibited. The presence of more than 25 individuals performing functions of their employment or assembled in an educational instructional setting is not a "gathering." A "gathering" includes, but is not limited to, parties, celebrations, or other social events, whether they occur indoors or outdoors.*

-Executive Order Sixth Amended Number Sixty-Seven (2020)

We have confirmed with the Virginia Department of Health this restriction applies to Scout unit meetings and activities.

Tidewater Council provides the following guidance for adhering to this restriction:

1. Continue to consult with your adult committee and chartered organization regarding all in-person unit meetings and activities.
2. Familiarize yourself with local and state COVID-19 requirements.
3. Employ general COVID-19 protocols as part of all Scouting meetings/activities:
  - a. Everyone five years of age and above present at the activity wears a face covering.
  - b. Wash hands and sanitize surfaces and equipment frequently.
  - c. Maintain appropriate distance (at least 6 feet) at all times.
  - d. Take participant temperatures before participation.
  - e. Advise participants to stay home if they are sick.
4. If your unit's total participant count (including youth members, adult leaders, and family members) exceeds 25, take steps to be compliant with the restriction on gathering size:
  - a. Conduct meetings that do not require the full unit to gather together.
  - b. When you do have meetings with the full group, hold them via teleconference.
  - c. It is acceptable to hold meetings in smaller groups, such as dens or patrols, provided:
    - i. Each group has their own space to meet.
    - ii. The groups do not intermingle.
    - iii. The full group does not assemble at any time.
    - iv. Each group has two-deep leadership.
  - d. If you have enough leadership, consider having smaller groups meet at separate times on the same day or on different days.
  - e. Meet outdoors (weather permitting), where it is easier to maintain social distancing.

We understand this 25-person limit may be an obstacle for many large Scout units, particularly when planning full meetings or activities. It is important to find ways to continue to provide the Scouting experience while ensuring the safety of our Scouts, leaders, families, and community. Please contact your district executive if you have questions or need assistance solving challenges presented by this restriction.