



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

MIAMI VALLEY COUNCIL

MARCH 17 COVID-19 Update

Dear Members of the Scouting Community,

As mentioned in the previous communication sent to our Scouting families on Friday, March 13, the Miami Valley Council's top priority is the health and safety of our Scouts, volunteers, staff, and their family members. We are closely monitoring the situation at the local, state and federal levels and staying current on recommendations from the CDC. We are also consulting with our Council's COVID-19 Task Force, which is comprised of executive board members and risk management and healthcare professionals, on a frequent basis. To continue to 'Do Our Duty' as 'Good Scouts' in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the CDC's recommendation of 15 days of social distancing; effective at the end-of-business today and through **March 31:**

- **The Miami Valley Council Service Center and Scout Shop will close.** The Council's staff will be working remotely and should you need to be in contact with members of the Miami Valley Council team, please email or call. Contact information for staff can be found [HERE](#). We are working to 'Do Our Best' in these unprecedented times to help you keep the Scouting fire lit for the youth and families of our programs, while keeping all parties safe.

As mentioned in the previous March 13th communication, the following is still in place through **April 30.**

- **ALL DISTRICT** and **COUNCIL** in-person meetings and ALL activities between Friday, March 13 and Thursday, April 30, 2020 will be postponed or cancelled.
- **ALL UNITS** are to discontinue in-person meetings and ALL activities, including camping trips. Again, it is our civic duty to play a leadership role and help our country limit the spread of the Corona-virus.
- **ALL COUNCIL** camps are closed.

For Information regarding refunds for camp facilities rental, event postponement or cancellations, please [CLICK HERE](#).

IMPORTANT NOTE:

These cancellations do **NOT** apply to our summer camp programs and events occurring beyond the closure period of April 30th. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and may make additional changes on programs, camps, and events beyond the April 30th date should the landscape further evolve.

How can you keep Scouting?

The MVC COVID-19 Task Force has also established a 'Virtual Scouting' subcommittee to help our units stay connected during our collective physical separation. They will be providing suggested resources and ideas to help our units, districts, and council committees communicate and keep the Scouting Fire lit for all of us. A couple ideas to get all of us started:

- Continue advancement by focusing on merit badge requirements that can be completed at home.
- Contact your merit badge counselor via email, Face-time, etc. (remember Youth Protection training...no one-on-one contact between youth and adult).
- Do a good turn daily. Look for ways to contribute to your community or to help a neighbor while staying safe.
- Many families are looking for resources to aid in the education of their children while they are home from school. Scouting can be an excellent partner in education in planning a school day or lesson plan at home.
- Stay in contact with friends and families in your unit even if it's just to say hi via a phone call, Face time, Duo, Google Hangouts.
- As a unit leader, now is a good time to take online trainings and renew your youth protection so you are ready to roll when normal operations resume.
- Encourage unit, district, and Council committees to continue normally scheduled meetings using virtual methods.
- [Scouting Magazine](#) and [Bryan On Scouting](#) are already providing some great ideas and resources for 'distance' Scouting.

We will continue to evaluate the situation daily. Updates will be shared as they are available through email distribution, our council's [Facebook](#) page, and [website](#).

Thank you for all that you are doing during these unprecedented and ever-changing times. We appreciate your cooperation and all that you do for the young people in our collective care. It is important that our entire Scouting community pulls together to do our part to address this public health crisis.

Sincerely,



**Jeffrey R. Schiavone,
Scout Executive**