

COVID-19 Participant Risk Statement

The well-being and the safety of all our members, volunteers, and employees is the Atlanta Area Council's top priority. While there is still much uncertainty regarding COVID-19, we are monitoring the information provided by health experts and government agencies to help keep safe those who choose to attend AAC, District or Unit activities.

Our council health supervisor, Dr. Jeremy Ackerman, is helping us coordinate with state and local health departments to ensure we are informed of and comply with their guidance to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 being contracted while participating in scouting activities. We require that each council, district or unit activity create a COVID-19 mitigation plan to reduce risk of exposure during scout activities.

The mitigation plan should include provisions that address:

- Pre-attendance education
- Health screening conducted by your guardian or unit prior to travel to activity
- Limitations of visitors while participating in activities
- Hygiene reminders during activity
- Extra handwashing /sanitizer stations available
- Cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces and shared program equipment
- Having planned check-ins with each participant one week and two weeks after the activity concludes to determine if anyone has developed symptoms

Screening precautions are important but cannot eliminate the potential for exposure to COVID-19 or other illnesses while participating in Scouting activities. Experts have said that people with COVID-19 may show no signs or symptoms of illness but can still spread the virus. Other people may be contagious before their symptoms occur. Even with these precautions, someone with COVID-19 may be allowed into a Scouting activity. We also recognize the very nature of Scouting makes social distancing difficult in many situations and impossible in others. Even with all the efforts to reduce transmission, it may be possible for someone to be exposed to COVID-19 while at a Scouting activity.

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 scouting activity.*

Every unit collectively, as well as each individual staff member, volunteer, and Scouting family must evaluate their unique circumstances and make an informed decision before participating in Scouting activities. We hope this information will be helpful as you make that choice.