



DECEMBER 2020 South Mountain District Newsletter

South Mountain District

MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL, BSA



NEWSLETTER... DISTRICT COMMENCEMENT

Commencement? As we close this chapter in our Scouting lives, it's important to realize that we are merely commencing to the next phase. It's been said that the door you think is the exit simply enters another room. And so it is with South Mountain District. Please stay active and involved in Scouting, especially for the sake of our youth—the Packs, Troops, and Crews—and yourself. Whether you'll be in Northampton District (as I will) or Lehigh District, or elsewhere, consider stepping up to help the district.

Inside, besides the usual information, you'll find South Mountain Memories of some current and former South Mountain Scouters. Winston Churchill said, "The farther back you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see." Looking back is only meaningful as you look ahead.

And with that, I declare this newsletter of the South Mountain District closed. See you on the other side.

If you have any comments direct them to Bernie Suess at newsletter@minsi-southmountain.com. *Thx*

2020 DATES

Roundtable / OA Chapter 7:00pm	1st Wednesday [2]
District Committee 7:00pm	1st Monday [3]
Eagle Board & Project Review 7:00pm	3rd Tuesday [2]
District Commissioners 7:00pm	3rd Wednesday [3]
Popcorn distribution	November 20-21 [TBA]
District Recharter Day	December 5, 2020 [TBA]

**indicates tentative date*

Please note: 2021 dates will be on calendars for the new districts.

MEETING LOCATION KEY

- [1] East Hills Moravian Church
1830 Butztown Rd, Bethlehem
- [2] St. Luke's Hospital and Health Network
800-801 Ostrum Street Bethlehem, PA 18018
- [3] Minsi Trails Council Office

NOTICE: *If you have a question regarding any date or activity, please contact the respective Chair listed on the District Committee Page.*



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

The South Mountain District is a geographical area located in Lehigh and Northampton counties which serves the school districts of Bethlehem Area, Saucon Valley, and Southern Lehigh. Municipalities within the South Mountain District include Bethlehem, Bethlehem Township, Center Valley, Coopersburg, Fountain Hill, Freemansburg, Hanover Township, Hellertown, Lower Milford, Lower Saucon, Steel City, and Upper Saucon.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DISTRICT LINKS

South Mountain District Home Page:

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/>

South Mountain District Fliers and Brochures Page:

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/fliers.htm>

South Mountain District Cub Resources Page:

http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/cub_resources.htm

South Mountain District Award Forms:

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/documents/Form-DistrictAwardofMerit.pdf>

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/documents/Form-Fellowship.pdf>

These forms are used for Scouter recognition.

http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/documents/District_Bio_Form.pdf

Scouter Bio Form. Fill in and email to the district at bios@minsi-southmountain.com

SMD Announcements

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/announce.htm>

Advancement and Recognition Guide

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/documents/Guide-Advancement.pdf>

FORUM Newsletter http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/current_forum.php

FORUM Attachments http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/~forum_attach.php

IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP: 2020 SOUTH MOUNTAIN DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 5 - District Recharter

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DISTRICT ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

Start time is 7:00 PM

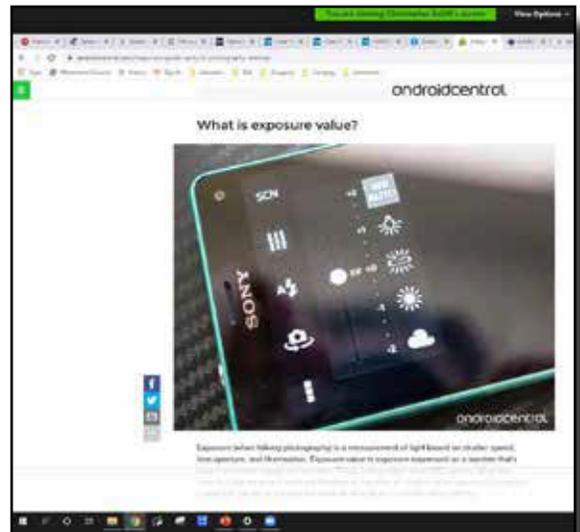
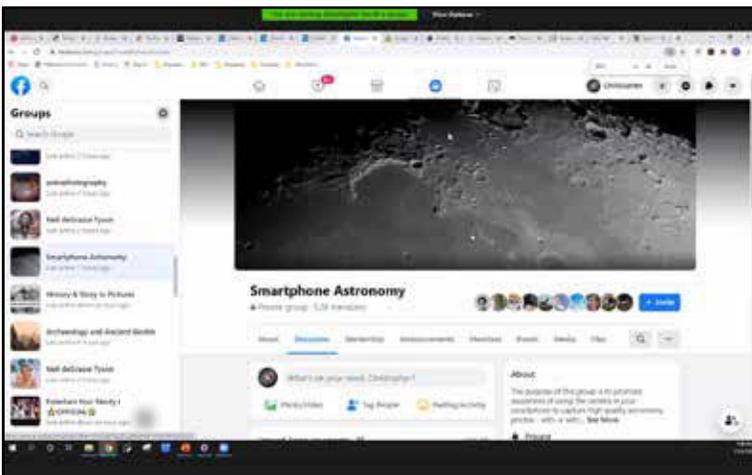
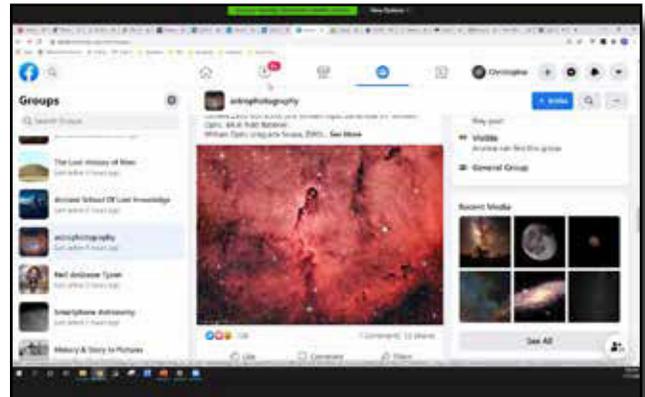
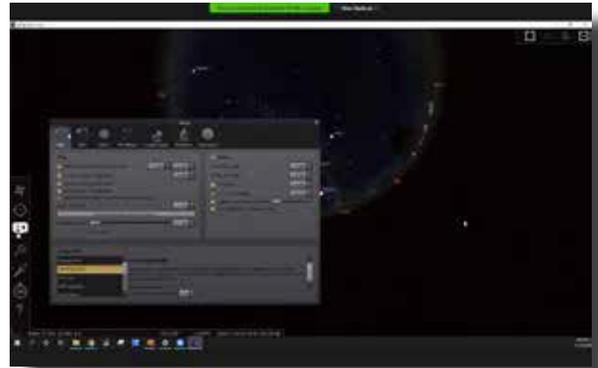
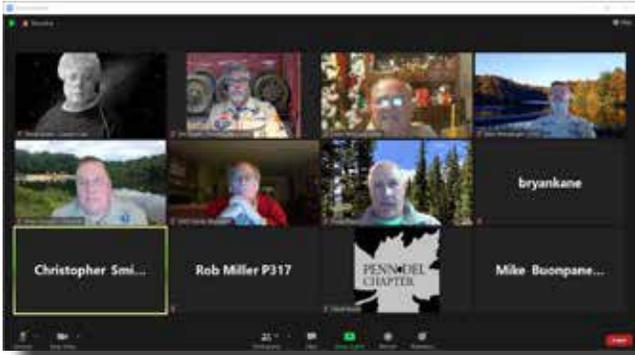
DATE	OVERALL PROGRAM	CUB SCOUTS (Program Leaders and Committee)	SCOUTS, BSA (youth and adults)	Disabilities & Differences JOINT SESSION
Dec 2		Meet your new district leaders - Leaders from Lehigh District and Northampton District will be here to meet and greet roundtable attendees		

DECEMBER 2020 South Mountain District Newsletter

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Around the District

South Mountain District Roundtable - via Zoom
November 4, 2020



South Mountain Memories

I have lived in the South Mountain District and been part of the Minsi Trails Council for over 34 years. During my 10 years as Director of Support Services I had contact with all of the units and Unit/District personnel through my responsibilities for our camps, our programs, Jambo's, Scouting for Food, etc. and always received great cooperation and support to make it happen for our Scouts. In my role as Registrar for Minsi Trails Council I still had contact with units and volunteers with registration and enjoyed the time I spent meeting with Eagle candidates as they turned in their Eagle applications in doing the final checks before turning it over to the District for the Eagle Board of Review. Upon retirement I was asked to serve on the District Advancement Committee as Scouts BSA Chair and accepted the job. I have enjoyed the time I spend meeting with and helping our units with advancement concerns, keeping the units informed of the latest things that are happening so the Scouts would not lose out as they worked toward higher ranks in Scouting.

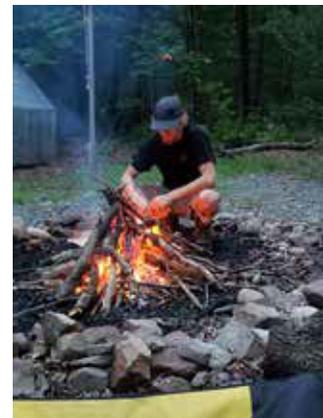
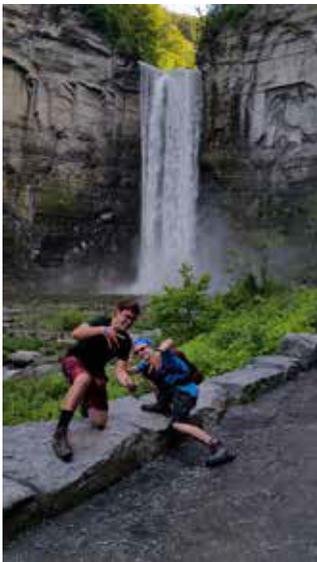


The dedication and cooperation I have received from our units and the outstanding District personnel over the years have made my role an enjoyment either as a professional or support staff member of MTC to being a volunteer in the great South Mountain District.

We have a choice to make as we move forward. We can work as a team to bring those same great things to our new District or we can be a problem and not cooperate and find fault with what is happening.

I know what I'm doing—thanks for the memories as we carry on!

Charles "Chas." Chase



-Chris Curtin

South Mountain Memories

I recall in 2004 that we had a patrol in the Klondike that was made up of some of our older Scouts. They decided among themselves that they wanted to win the Klondike. They decided that they would be high spirited and would move quickly from event to event, singing as they entered and left. They worked hard to be the best patrol they could and they did well. But the thing that sent them to the top was their spirit. They knew as the day wound down that they had done well, but weren't aware of the final scores yet. Still, they wanted to stage a photo to celebrate their day and they asked me to photograph it. They decided they wanted to re-stage the raising of the flag over Iwo Jima, but with their patrol flag. They chose a spot at Camp Minsi's waterfront area and proceeded to practice their pose. When they were happy with it, they asked me to capture the moment. All these years later I remember their joy at their teamwork and their accomplishment. And they did win, too.



-Bernie Suess, Troop 362



Nate building his first campfire at a SMD camporee. *-Arby Beisel*

[About the change from Bethlehem Area Council to South Mountain District] I don't recall a big deal about the council/district re-organization. I don't recall anything called "South Mountain District." For most of my years in scouts, it was "Bethlehem Area Council." There were a few/several districts within the council, each with some number of troops, but again, it didn't make any difference to me as a scout. I think they were identified by numbers rather than names. I do recall our well-liked district commissioner, Ben, who took a handful of us who were interested on bird hikes and campouts. Bird Study was my first merit badge because of him! He was an electrical engineer at Western Electric or Bell Telephone as I recall.

-Bruce Smith, Eagle Scout 1966, Troop 2



Gateway sign



Scouting for Food, 2003



Fall Camporee, 2003



9/11 Flag retirement ceremony, 2003



Fall Camporee, 2018

South Mountain Memories



Fall Cub Event, 2018



2018 South Mountain District dinner



Popcorn pickup, 2018



Bethlehem Scoutreach Daycamp, 2008



First Scout Hike, 2001



Sea Scout Academy



August 1-4, 2021
at Camp Minsi
in Pocono Summit, PA



A SAVE THE DATE FOR SEA SCOUT SHIPS AND VENTURE CREWS

Announcing the 2021 Sea Scout Academy sponsored by BSA Northeast Region – Area 5 Sea Scouts and hosted by Minsi Trails Council at Camp Minsi, Pocono Summit, Pennsylvania.

This Sunday through Wednesday event will feature both shore-based and water-based sessions at Camp Minsi's Aquatics Center on Stillwater Lake, located in the heart of the Pocono Mountains in east-central Pennsylvania. There will also be several fun activities designed to build camaraderie between Ships, culminating with Tuesday's "The Big Day Out" event, featuring biking, hiking, and rafting in the Lehigh River Gorge State Park. Venture Crews interested in water-based adventures are also welcome to participate. For details, visit us at: www.campminsi.org/ssa

Minsi Trails Training Committee – Recommendation for Dec. 2020 Recharter

Jim Roberts, MTC Training Committee Chair

November 17, 2020

Background: With COVID-19 restrictions in place, the usual Spring offering of Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) was cancelled. A course was offered in Fall and was well attended. It is Minsi Trails Council policy that all direct contact leaders be trained for their position. Most direct contact position leaders can finish their training online through the National BSA site. **ONLY** Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters must have IOLS to be trained for their position. The IOLS syllabus requires an “in person” component.

There are a small number of Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters that were not able to attend the Fall IOLS training and would like to continue in their position for the 2021 charter year. The course was given in a “hybrid” mode, with close to half of the material presented online through live sessions, with the other half in a single day (with no overnight required) in a masked, socially distanced session for the outdoor skills that must be experienced. The intention is to continue this model at least for the 2021 year, and perhaps beyond.

The Minsi Trails Training Committee passed the following recommendation for immediate implementation at the November 17, 2020 meeting:

Recommendation: For rechartering for 2021, any Scoutmasters or Assistant Scoutmasters can receive a “one-year exemption” for the IOLS portion of their required training, and still register in that position during the December 2020 recharter cycle. Anyone requesting an exemption from IOLS must have the Scoutmaster Position Specific Training completed, as it can be done completely online. The Registrar should keep track of all exemptions given, as those individuals are required to complete the IOLS training during the 2021 year. There is a limit of a single “one-year exemption” per person for the IOLS course.

Implementation: If the IOLS course is the **only** missing course, then the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster can reregister in that position for 2021 only. The Training Committee asks the Registrar to record anyone in this situation and send names and contact information to the MTC Training Committee Chair so that they can be directly contacted for upcoming IOLS courses that should be available in both the Spring and Fall of 2021. The Training Committee will examine the situation again in the Fall of 2021 to determine if continuation of such a 1 year exemption is warranted.

MTC Training Committee – IOL Training for Recharter Dec 2020.docx



**America
ON WHEELS**

TOYS FOR TOTS
allentown-pa.toysfortots.org

2020 Holiday Train Exhibit

Social Distancing & Masks Remains in Effect Throughout November & December

Enjoy the sounds, lights and action of many model trains including G Scale, O Scale and HO Scale as they chug their way around the Museum!

The Museum is a Toys For Tots collection site. Bring a new, unwrapped toy to be placed on the Mack Truck for delivery to children in need.

<p>NOV. 27</p> <p>1pm View Holiday Balloon Sculptures www.eventsbyballoonworks.com</p>	<p>NOV. 29</p> <p>Donate a New Toy for Children in need and receive HALF PRICE OFF ONE ADULT ADMISSION</p>	<p>DEC. 3</p> <p>Seniors FREE 62 & over</p>	<p>DEC. 5</p> <p>11am-2:30pm Oil Painting – William Bunting demonstrates how he creates oil paintings of Classic Cars</p>	<p>DEC. 6</p> <p>1pm Christmas Marionettes and Elves Meet the Mock Turtle www.mockturtle.org</p>	<p>DEC. 12</p> <p>Scouts, Family and Community Day – FREE admission to Scouts wearing uniform. Scout Leaders wearing uniform receive HALF PRICE ADULT ADMISSION</p>
<p>DEC. 12</p> <p>1pm – 3pm Enjoy the Magic of R.J. Lewis www.rjmagic.com</p>	<p>DEC. 13</p> <p>12:30pm – 3pm Robin & Jim playing all your favorite Holiday songs & music from the 40's to present. www.robinandjimduo.com</p>	<p>DEC. 19</p> <p>Noon – 3pm Little Brass Band of the Lehigh Valley & The Galena Brass playing Holiday favorites and taking requests www.galenabrass.com</p>	<p>DEC. 20</p> <p>12:30-3:30 Carols, Candy & Music with The Swing Time Dolls www.swingtimedolls.com</p>	<p>DEC. 23</p> <p>11am-2pm Ice Cream Sundae Frenzy In the Café' \$3.00 each</p>	<p>DEC. 24 & 25</p> <p>CLOSED Happy Holidays</p>
<p>DEC. 26</p> <p>1pm – 3pm CHOO - CHOO - CHOO Trains Running 10am – 4pm</p>	<p>DEC. 27</p> <p>Noon -3:00pm Noon-Year's Eve Party for all Ages Enjoy activities, noise makers, music, kid's resolution station, hot dogs & ice cream. Music by DJ Jimbo www.dj-jimbo.com</p>	<p>DEC. 29</p> <p>11am-2pm Create your own Holiday Marshmallow Snow Buddies</p>	<p>DEC. 30</p> <p>Noon – 2pm Dollar Hot Doggie Days in HubCap Cafe</p>	<p>DEC. 31</p> <p>CLOSED Cheers to a New Year ~~~ 2021</p>	

Engineers will run the Trains during MUSEUM HOURS WEDNESDAY through SUNDAY



The U.S. Marine Corp Reserve is proud to coordinate the Toys for Tots Program. But its ultimate success depends upon the support of the local community and generosity of the people who donate toys. Please make the time to visit America On Wheels, drop off your toy for a needy child and enjoy the fantastic train displays.
AOW is a tax-exempt organization as provided by IRS regulations.

Admission Prices

- Adults - \$12.00
- Seniors (62+) - \$10.00
- Seniors (62+) - FREE the first Thursday of every month
- Students 13-16 - \$7.00
- Children 12 & under - FREE

America On Wheels Museum
5 North Front Street • Allentown, PA 18102-5303
Tues. - Sat. 10am to 4pm & Sunday Noon to 4pm
610-432-4200 www.americaonwheels.org

3 THINGS TO KNOW
NOW THAT THE BSA HAS FILED FOR CHAPTER 11

1
Scouting Continues

- Blue & Gold Banquets
- Pinewood Derbies
- Regular Meetings
- Campouts
- Service Projects
- Courts of Honor
- Crossover Ceremonies

2
Scouting is safer now than ever before

- ~90%** OF PENDING AND ASSERTED ABUSE CLAIMS are related to abuse from 30+ years ago
- EFFECTIVE BARRIERS TO ABUSE**
- RECOGNIZE RESPOND REPORT**
1-844-SCOUTS1

3
You can make a difference

- Explain BSA's youth protection policies to friends and neighbors
- Plan or attend service projects or public events to show your community the value of Scouting
- Proudly share with others – in person and on social media – why Scouting is important

More information at <https://www.bsarestructuring.org/>

Learn about the new rechartering process—click on the image to the right.

Update | About Us | Join Scouting | Support Scouting | Eagles/Alumni | Camping | Resources | Training | Popcorn

Minsi Trails Council, Inc. - BSA | Resources | Unit Re-Chartering Process

Unit Re-Chartering Process

2020 Fall Re-Chartering info for Units

Membership-Marketing Hub

Important and New Re-charter Information - Please Read!!!

Den Video Series

Scout Book

Cancellation and Refund Policy

PA Act 15 - Clearances

Volunteer/Leader Resources

Scout Resources

Silver Beaver Nomination

Annual Health and Medical Forms

Campships/FAQ

Guide to Safe Scouting

Merit Badge Counselor Application

Merit Badge - Counselors/Lists

Journey to Excellence

Incident Reporting - BSA

Virtual Programming

It is very important that unit leaders understand the new procedures, the timeline, and the options available to them. Please review the below information and plan to join us for a virtual MTC Re-chartering Roundtable on October 22 at 7:00 PM. If you are not available that day, the recording will be posted to this site for your review. Units should especially note that the timeline this year is much earlier than in prior years, so it is critical to undertake the process early! The new re-charter process is designed to be completed by early December for all Council units.

We intend that our new process will result in a good experience for all of our Scouting units. As always, if you have any questions or concerns throughout the new process, please contact your unit commissioner, district leadership or MTC professional staff. Thank you for your attention to this important process.

Details and Key Documents

Key Notes:

- As of October 1, 2020 - Charter Packets have been printed. Included in packets are important documents pertaining to how to re-charter, needed Leader Trainings, and PA Act 15 Clearance expirations.
- Please note: All those adults needing to renew PA Act 15 clearances should turn them into the Unit Committee Chair after October 1, 2020 for the chartering paperwork submission. This will streamline the process to one central point for the charter period. Outside the charter period, PA Act 15 clearances should be submitted to council.

Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Scouting: Recommendations for Unit and Council Event Leaders

Introduction

Communicable diseases, both acute and chronic, exist everywhere. An awareness of the medical approach to these problems will help Scouting leaders plan and conduct safer events.

Common Ways Communicable Diseases Are Spread

Communicable diseases are infections that can spread from one person to another by direct contact, by contact with blood or bodily fluids (e.g., saliva, feces), airborne droplets from coughing or sneezing, or a “vector” like a mosquito or a tick.

Examples of Common Communicable Diseases

There are many communicable diseases. The table below has examples of these and shows that some diseases may be spread in multiple ways.

Direct Contact	Airborne Droplets (Respiratory Spread)	Fecal/Oral	Blood, Mucous Membrane Contact	Vector Spread (Mosquito, Tick)
Influenza	Influenza	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Lyme disease
Common cold	Common cold	Norovirus	Hepatitis C	Rocky Mountain spotted fever
Hepatitis B	Whooping cough (pertussis)	Giardia	HIV	Ehrlichiosis
Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	Diphtheria	Pinworms	Zika virus	Zika virus
Chicken pox	Tuberculosis	Salmonella		West Nile virus
Lice	Measles	Polio		
Cold sore	Mumps	Food poisoning		
Ringworm				
Strep throat	Strep throat			
Impetigo				

Not all infectious illnesses are communicable. An ear infection is one such example.

Symptoms

Common signs and symptoms that may indicate a participant has a potentially infectious and communicable illness are fever, cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, sores with pus on them, pink eye (conjunctivitis), myalgia (muscle soreness), and fatigue.

Prevention: The Key to Successful Control of Infectious Diseases

PRE-CAMP MEDICAL QUESTIONNAIRE: Scouting occurs in groups and often in remote areas. Neither setting is appropriate for a person with a potentially communicable disease. Use of a pre-camp/pre-event medical questionnaire by all unit leaders is strongly recommended before any participant leaves the unit's home base. An example would be the BSA Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist, No. 680-102. Riding in a car or bus with an individual who has certain infections (for example, norovirus) may be risky. If a participant is immunocompromised or has not received all of the recommended vaccines, it is recommended that they stay away from anyone who is ill.

IMMUNIZATION: The most effective method of preventing many infectious and life-threatening childhood diseases is, unquestionably, immunization. Many states and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend mandatory immunization prior to enrollment in school. Immunization is effective in treating many, though not all, serious infectious diseases. Examples of diseases prevented by immunization are chicken pox, measles, mumps, and influenza. Tetanus immunization is required for all participants. Prescreening is suggested for potential infectious symptoms. Note that there may be additional state or local laws which supersede any Boy Scouts of America requirement. Check beforehand with the camp or event you are planning to attend or with the local Council Health Supervisor.

HAND-WASHING: Careful hand-washing prevents many infections. Hands may be washed with an alcohol-based solution containing at least 60 percent alcohol if the solution stays on the skin for about 20 seconds. If the hands are visibly dirty, soap and clean water should be used for at least 20 seconds until the dirt is gone from the hands and from under the fingernails. When handling or preparing food, hands should be washed frequently. Hands should always be washed after using the restroom—even in a wilderness setting where there is no “restroom.”

COUGHING: When anyone coughs or sneezes, it should be “caught” in the bend of the arm or in a tissue. Always wash your hands after coughing or sneezing into a tissue. It is also essential to disinfect surfaces after someone has coughed or sneezed over them because droplets of infected material may contain viruses or bacteria that remain alive for many minutes or even hours.

DISINFECTION: Disinfection of contaminated areas is a critical part of disease prevention. While there are many commercially available products for disinfecting surfaces, one effective method is to use at least 5.25 percent hypochlorite (bleach-based household cleaner) and water. For most surfaces, 1½ teaspoons of bleach per gallon of water is adequate. However, if a surface is contaminated with blood or feces, use ¼ cup of bleach-based cleaner in a gallon of water to wipe down the surface.

GLOVING: Nonlatex disposable gloves should be used when touching blood, stool, vomit, or bodily secretions from another person. Hand-washing is essential after removing the gloves. Several pairs of these lightweight gloves should be carried in all first-aid kits.

INSECT REPELLENTS: While many repellents are available, those with at least 10 percent and no more than 30 percent DEET are considered the best defense against biting insects by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Apply and reapply these repellents according to the directions on the container. Treating clothing with permethrin may also reduce insect bites.

QUARANTINE: Participants with any of the symptoms found in the Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist should not participate in a Scouting event. A previously asymptomatic participant who develops symptoms during an event should be sent to a health-care worker for evaluation if possible. If a communicable disease is thought to be present and a professional evaluation is not possible, the participant should be isolated from the rest of the group until he or she can be removed from the event and sent home.

INCIDENT REPORTING: If a participant requires medical care beyond Scout-rendered first aid, an incident report must be completed to notify the council. This is extremely important. The incident reporting tool and additional information can be found at www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/.

WHEN TO NOTIFY THE COUNCIL HEALTH SUPERVISOR: An outbreak of a communicable disease has occurred when the number of cases is beyond the usual rate of occurrence for that particular disease. Many communicable diseases require notifying the local or state public health department. A unit leader should notify the council health supervisor if

- Multiple cases of an infectious illness occur, leading to an increased risk of others getting the disease
- The infection results in a participant being hospitalized

Requirements for reporting to public health officials vary by state. Contact the Council Health Supervisor and camp director if a suspected or known communicable disease occurs at a Scouting event.

OBSERVATION SUGGESTIONS: When is it safe to return to “play” if a communicable disease is diagnosed or suspected? The following are some general guidelines to reduce the incidence of spreading communicable diseases. If there is any uncertainty about whether a participant is infectious or a disease is communicable, a physician should be consulted.

- Isolation from the rest of the group is recommended until the ill participant can be evaluated or observed long enough to assure that he or she does not need to be sent home.
- A participant with fever (100.4 F or higher) should not participate in group events until he or she is without fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medicines (e.g., acetaminophen, ibuprofen, etc.).
- A participant with diarrhea should not participate until the diarrhea has subsided for at least 24 hours.
- A participant with pink eye (conjunctivitis), cough, or sore throat should be evaluated and should not return to the event until symptoms have resolved.

References

- BSA Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist: www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-102_PreEventChklist.pdf
- Boy Scouts of America—Incident Reporting Tool: www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/
- *Scouts BSA Handbook for Boys/Scouts BSA Handbook for Girls*—Personal First-Aid Kit, p. 108
- American Academy of Pediatrics, healthychildren.org—Choosing an Insect Repellent for Your Child: www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-play/Pages/Insect-Repellents.aspx
- American Academy of Pediatrics, healthychildren.org—Immunizations: www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/default.aspx
- Mayo Clinic Patient Care & Health Information—Infectious Diseases: www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/infectious-diseases/home/ovc-20168649
- North Carolina Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center—Cleaning and Sanitizing: What’s the difference and how are they done? https://ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov/Portals/0/documents/pdf/B/bleach_solution_fact_sheet.pdf
- World Health Organization—Glove Use Information Leaflet: www.who.int/gpsc/5may/Glove_Use_Information_Leaflet.pdf
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Recommended Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/0-18yrs-child-combined-schedule.pdf
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—When & How to Wash Your Hands: www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Coughing & Sneezing: www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/etiquette/coughing_sneezing.html

Online Resources during the Covid-19 Pandemic (and beyond?)

Minsi Trails has a lot of online programming to help you and your Scouts and more is on the way. See it at:

<http://www.minsitrails.org/resources/virtual-programming-/>

To find the most current information about Minsi Trails Council during the pandemic, go to

<http://www.minsitrails.org/update/72747>

Learn how to run an online meeting (thanks to the Northern New Jersey Council). It's at

http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/documents/How_to_Plan_and_Run_a_Virtual_Meeting.pdf

Find out about rank advancement during the pandemic at:

http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/documents/COVID_INFO.pdf

Many of you already know that *Bryan on Scouting* is a great resource and he has a good deal of information about doing Scouting online:

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/>

Den Leaders Facebook Group Helps with At Home Activities

Cub Scout Den Leaders (and other interested adult pack leaders) can share information on Minsi Trails Council's Den Leaders Facebook Private Group. Do a Facebook search for "Minsi Trails Den Leaders" and it should be first in the results. If you have a Facebook login, you can also find the group by visiting Minsi Trails Council's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pg/minsitrailsbsa>) and clicking on the Groups link), Take a look. If it's of interest, ask to join. If you are having problems, contact me at webmaster@minsi-southmountain.com

If anyone has links or resources that they would like to share, contact me at newsletter@minsi-southmountain.com

Three part series from Northern New Jersey Council, recorded on YouTube and on their channel.

Part 1 - 'How to Run a Virtual Meeting' - <https://youtu.be/8vkAhD1C1tg>.

Part 2 - 'How to Plan/Run a Virtual DEN' - <https://youtu.be/urQioxD3Afs>.

Part 3 - "Activities and Parent Involvement" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgNeZStXwIM>

For recruiting and membership help, visit Minsi Trails' Membership and Marketing Hub at <https://www.minsitrails.org/resources/membership-marketing-hub/>

Video from the recent council-wide roundtable on recruiting youth and adults will soon be available on the Membership and Marketing Hub.



Restart Scouting Checklist

As always, the safety of our Scouts, volunteers, employees and communities is our top priority. This checklist outlines several minimum guiding protocols that adult leaders/volunteers must consider while working with local and state health departments, local councils, chartered organizations and Scouting families on when and how to resume meetings, service projects, camping and all other official Scouting activities.

If it is not practical to meet these minimal protocols, do not restart in-person activities.

S = Supervision

- Understand local and state guidance on preventing COVID-19 exposure.
- Engage your chartered organization and local council on necessary adjustments.
- Conduct the “before you gather” protocols.

A = Assessment

- Identify participants who fall under the CDC’s group of higher-risk individuals. Notify all participants about the risks of participating since COVID-19 exposure cannot be eliminated.
- Verify that the planned activity, gathering or group sizes are not prohibited by local or state orders.

F = Fitness and Skill

- Review Annual Health and Medical Records and consider using a [pre-event screening](#) for all participants.

E = Equipment and Environment

- Verify that handwashing, hygiene and cleaning supplies are available and used properly.
- Monitor social distancing, interactions and sharing of equipment and food among participants.
- Monitor participants for changing health conditions.
- Use the “as you gather” protocols.

SAFE ≠ Risk-Free

As the response to the pandemic shifts to a state-focused, phased approach, the Boy Scouts of America advises local councils to consult with their local and state health departments, as well as local chartered partners, to implement appropriate protocols to help keep our members, volunteers and employees safe.

Precautions and mitigation strategies are important, but they cannot eliminate the potential for exposure to COVID-19 or any other illness when in-person activities resume.

People with COVID-19 may show no signs or symptoms of illness, but they can spread the virus. Some people may be contagious before their symptoms occur. The fact is that someone with COVID-19 may pass the required health screenings and be allowed into program activities.

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 resuming in-person Scouting activities.

Every member, volunteer and family must evaluate their unique circumstances and make an informed decision before attending in-person activities.

We hope this information will be helpful as you make that choice.

For updates, please monitor <https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus>

Before you gather:

- Consult** your council and chartered organization to understand community standards and protocols in place.
- Communicate** to all parents and youth that the Boy Scouts of America recommends that no one in the higher-risk category take part in person. Continue to engage virtually.
- Communicate** that anyone who feels sick must [stay home](#). If you become sick or develop symptoms, isolate yourself then go home and seek care.
- Educate and train** all participants on appropriate social distancing, [cleaning and disinfecting](#), [hand hygiene](#) and [respiratory \(cough or sneeze\) etiquette](#) before meeting for the first time. Periodically reinforce the behaviors as needed.
- Before attending**, upon arrival and at least daily for longer events, all participants [should be screened](#) for any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
 - **Cough**
 - **Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing**
 - **Chills**
 - **Repeated shaking with chills**
 - **Muscle pain**
 - **Headache**
 - **Sore throat**
 - **Loss of taste or smell**
 - **Diarrhea**
 - **Feeling feverish or having a temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit**
 - **Known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19**
- As appropriate**, participants should have [face coverings](#) available to wear when gathering or when in public areas or venues. Several coverings per person may be needed.
- Communicate** that those who take part in person should avoid contact with higher-risk individuals for 14 days after the event.

As you gather:

- Minimize group sizes.** Small groups of participants who stay together all day every day, remain [6 feet apart](#) and do not share objects are at the lowest risk. Think of a den or patrol that does not mix or gather with other dens or patrols, with supervision that stays with the small group. *Scouting's [Barriers to Abuse](#) always apply.*
- Stay local** to your geographic area and groups for unit activities. If you must travel, limit mixing with others along the way.
- Minimize mixing** with parents or siblings unless they are part of the unit activity. For example, the same parent picks up and drops off youth, and stays in the car. No guests or visitors who have not been through the pre-gathering protocols and screening should take part.
- Have hand sanitizer**, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available for use at meetings, activities and campouts.
- Minimize the use** of common areas and shared tools. If unavoidable, they should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between uses.
- Develop dining protocols** (including but not limited to):
 - No self-serve buffet meals or common water coolers.
 - Use of disposable utensils, napkins, cups and plates.
 - Clean and disinfect eating and cooking gear after each use.
- Develop tenting protocols** for the group:
 - Minimize use of fans or devices that stir the air.
 - Campers should sleep head-to-toe in bunks or cots spaced as far apart as possible.
 - Individual tents, hammocks and bivys may be considered.
- During program activities:**
 - Equipment that must be shared should be disinfected before and after each use.
 - Where possible, assign activity-related protective equipment for the duration of an event to a single individual (life jacket, gloves, harness).
 - Effective handwashing before and after each program area use.
- In case of an injury or illness**, promptly report the incident, including COVID-19 exposures. Utilize [Incident Reporting Resources](#), including COVID-19 instructions.

When you get home:

- Avoid contact** with higher-risk individuals for 14 days.
- Monitor** for any signs of illness for 14 days, and
- Communicate** with your unit leadership should you develop symptoms.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
HEALTH AND SAFETY



BSA SAFETY MOMENT USING A SAFETY MOMENT IN SCOUTING ACTIVITIES

SUMMARY

What do nuclear power plants, construction sites, aircraft carriers, and many hospitals have in common with Scouting? All constantly look for ways to eliminate hazards that could be life altering or fatal. One tool used by many safety-conscious groups is the safety moment or safety briefing that starts each meeting or activity with a pause to discuss a hazard or risk that can be prevented. The safety moment focuses the attention of the group on safety and how to achieve it. That's the "why" of the safety moment. Let's address the who, what, when, where, and how next.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Who can deliver a safety moment? Anyone who is willing to be prepared and to step up. Ideally, each Scout or Scouter (with some preparation) could step up and make a difference within his or her unit or group.

When and **where** should a safety briefing be delivered? At the beginning of a meeting or just before an activity—especially one that has some risk such as shooting, climbing, or aquatic activities.

What makes a great safety moment? Almost anything that focuses or educates the audience on a safety topic. The BSA publishes several [safety moments](#), and new topics are being developed on a regular basis. Other topics can include the use of [checklists](#) or safety tools such as [PAUSE](#) or focus on something such as hydration, safe driving, or simply the location of fire extinguishers or evacuation routes. The *Guide to Safe Scouting*, the [Scouting Safely website](#), and the Health and Safety newsletters are also great sources of ideas. If you have information that's accurate, don't shy away from discussing injuries or other incidents that occurred during a recent outing as long as the focus is on learning and prevention. Make it simple and easy to understand, and help the learners know how to apply the message.

How should the message be delivered? All messages should be delivered using facts and simple language and should be appropriate to the audience. Using a handout, slides, or a demonstration will help assure that those who hear the message understand it and know how to apply it. The message should be delivered in just a few minutes. Don't belabor the point or make it difficult.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Guide to Safe Scouting—www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx

Safety Moments—www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/Safety_Moments.aspx

Scouting PAUSE—www.scouting.org/filestore/healthsafety/pdf/680-046.pdf

Checklists—www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS/gssax.aspx

Health and Safety newsletters—www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety.aspx

You *know* you can do most training online?

Why not do it now and become a better leader?

<https://my.scouting.org/>



Minsi Trails Council Re-Charter Help sessions

Please share the following with all unit leaders:

Anyone working on re-chartering who has questions may join our nightly zoom to ask those questions, and get help completing their charter. The dates are:

- Topic: MTC Re-charter Help
- Time: Nov 22, 2020 08:30 PM Eastern Time for one hour
- Daily through Dec 1, 2020
- Nov 22, 2020 08:30 PM Sunday
- Nov 23, 2020 08:30 PM Monday
- Nov 24, 2020 08:30 PM Tuesday
- Nov 25, 2020 08:30 PM Wednesday
- Nov 27, 2020 08:30 PM Friday
- Nov 28, 2020 08:30 PM Saturday
- Nov 29, 2020 08:30 PM Sunday
- Nov 30, 2020 08:30 PM Monday
- Dec 1, 2020 08:30 PM Tuesday

For connection information to attend one of the help sessions, go to the Minsi Trails calendar and click on any of the help session links for Lehigh District or Northampton District:

<http://www.minsitrails.org/event/calendar/3152>

Tamie Swain | Council Commissioner
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
Minsi Trails Council

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DISTRICT COMMITTEE

DISTRICT KEY 3

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Cub Camp Promotions	OPEN		
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Membership School Night	OPEN		
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*Any Scouter interested in serving on the District Committee, contact Mike Faccinetto
or if interested in serving as a Commissioner, contact Eily Leicht.*