

2021 Summer Camp Operating Policies



Frequently Asked Questions



Please note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and local and state regulations, our program offering, and merit badge program is subject to change at any point leading into the 2021 summer camp season. Please check BlackSwampBSA.org for the most updated document(s).

What are the general guidelines for participation at summer camp at Berry and Lakota?

Masks will be required for all participants. Social distancing will be expected for all participants. Facility sanitation across the camps will be consistent and documented. Daily temperature checks will be done for staff and participants.

CAMPSITES

How many Scouts can be in a campsite?

Troops can bring as many Scouts as they would like. Scouts will be separated into patrols of 10, and the patrols must be distanced around campsite.

Why are patrols distancing?

With our plan to allow open merit badge enrollment, we have looked at the other opportunities in camp to limit exposure to other participants. Like how students go to school during the day, and then return home in the evenings to their family, or pod. We similarly will operate in this method. To accommodate this, we will make sure that each patrol in your campsite will have picnic tables in their tent area to allow them space to be distanced from the other Patrols.

How many participants can stay in a tent?

One participant will be permitted per tent. One exception to this rule would be siblings from the same household. They can share a tent if they are within 2 years of age. They will need to sleep head-to-toe.

What if our Troop does not have enough tents to meet the above requirement?

Please communicate in advance with your respective Camp Director. We will provide camp tents to accommodate your needs.

Can patrols share campsite latrines?

Yes. Camp will provide sanitizer spray and will encourage all participants to use the spray before and after use. Sanitizing supplies will also be available for Troop's to use for Troop/campsite supplies, like brooms, rakes, axes, etc.

How will Scouts/Leaders handle showers at the shower house?

Shower times, and facilities, will be assigned to Troops/Patrols. This allows us to manage how many people are at the shower house at one time. This also allows for proper sanitation between uses.

MERIT BADGE CLASSES

How will merit badge classes work?

Classes will operate as closely as possible to years past. Scouts will have the ability to pick their classes, and adult leaders will register them on Saturday, April 3, 2021 at 9 am through the online camp registration portal.

Will there be merit badge capacities?

Yes. Merit badge classes will have no more than 10 participants. Some classes will be less, based on facilities (shooting sports) and available equipment (boating).

What procedures will be followed during merit badge classes, regarding COVID-19?

Scouts will be asked to wear masks, sit 6 feet apart at seating areas (social distancing), and to wash/sanitize their hands upon arrival to the area. Scouts will have assigned seats and will sit in them every day. The counselors will ensure that surfaces and equipment is sanitized between sessions. For merit badges with physical exertion requirements, like swimming and physical fitness, masks will not be required while completing those requirements.

Will there be waitlists?

Yes. The registration system, as in year's past, will have waitlists for merit badges. Both camps, however, are committed to helping Scouts take the merit badges they are interested in. We will do our best to arrange staff to cover the classes but may also ask adult leaders to assist with classes, if they are willing.

OPEN PROGRAM / EVENING PROGRAM

How will open program areas work?

Program areas will remain on the schedule, but these will be limited participation. We will allow 10 Scouts at a time in these areas. Names of Scouts will be written down along with the time they arrive/exit the area (for the purpose of contract tracing). Scouts will be asked to not return everyday if there is a high demand to access the area. This will allow all Scouts an opportunity throughout the week.

What procedures will be followed during open programs, regarding COVID-19?

Scouts will be asked to wear masks, sit 6 feet apart at seating areas (social distancing), and to wash/sanitize their hands upon arrival to the area. The counselors will ensure that surfaces and equipment are sanitized throughout. For activities with physical exertion requirements, masks will not be required while participating.

How will evening programs work?

Programs will be designed to be Patrol based, allowing Scouts to stay within their pods. Staff members will be assigned to each patrol to help guide Scouts through activities. Patrols will not be intermingling during these activities. Events like campfires and OA callouts are still planned, and the camps are working through the details on how to hold these, while allowing proper spacing.

DINING HALL OPERATIONS

How will meals work?

Camp participants will be split into two groups. These groups will take turns between eating in the dining hall, and eating in an outdoor facility (outdoor shelters, or circus tents.). Everyone will have the chance to eat in each area

Will there be assigned seating?

Yes. Each patrol will have assigned seating. Tables and seats will be spaced out to provide proper distancing.

Will masks be required in the dining areas?

Masks will be required unless the participant is sitting at their table and eating. Once done eating, the mask will be put back on.

How will food be served?

Food will be served cafeteria style. Camp staff, wearing PPE, will serve plates. Social distancing in the food line will be practiced. Separate serving lines will be operated for the indoor and outdoor dining areas.

Will there still be program (i.e., songs/announcements) in the dining areas?

No. These important aspects of camp will be done prior to entering the dining areas.

EARLY DISMISSAL / VISITORS

Can leaders/scouts leave camp throughout the week?

While highly discouraged, leaders and Scouts will be permitted to leave camp as needed. We encourage limiting the number of times leaving and ask that these participants limit their exposure to others as much as possible during their time out of camp. This will allow for youth who need to leave for Dr. appointments or sports activities, and for Troops to rotate adult leaders, as needed for work/vacation purposes. Health checks will be required once back in camp. If adults leave and come back, they will be assigned back to the same patrol for meals that they started with earlier in the week.

Will visitors be allowed in camp?

At this time, visitors will not be permitted in camp. Again, this is an effort to limit the amount of exposure our participants might experience during their week of camp.