

Troop 202 COVID Safety Procedures

COVID Guidance

- Troop 202 operating protocols will comply with local, state, and federal government requirements.
- They are compatible with St. Elizabeth Seton church restrictions for group meetings, use of facilities, and capacity of rooms.
- They incorporate national and local BSA guidelines for in-person activities.
- They will not always be exactly the same as those followed by Carmel Clay Schools, youth sports, and other organizations.

COVID Rules (applicable outdoors or indoors, on-site or off-site)

1. Do not attend if you are ill, or if you've been exposed to someone who is ill.
2. Everyone must have a mask with them at all times.
3. Six feet of distancing is maintained when possible.
4. If within six feet, or if indoors, masks are worn.
5. No communal cooking.
6. Tents are not shared by non-family members.
7. Shared items are cleaned between touches.
8. Hands are washed frequently.
9. No troop carpools are arranged.

Roles of Youth and Adults

- Adult leaders establish policy in the troop related to health and safety, and implement required safety measures (such as attendance records for exposure tracking).
- Youth leaders (with adult coaching) are expected to plan and conduct the troop program in a way consistent with these rules.
- All youth and adults are expected to understand and abide by COVID-related troop rules.

Participant Self-Screening

- Participants are asked to self-screen (temperature, symptoms) before attending any unit function.
- If a participant becomes ill with COVID-related symptoms during a meeting, they will be separated from other participants and asked to leave.
- If a Scout or adult tests positive for COVID after participating in an activity, they must notify the troop committee chair and Scoutmaster immediately.
- If a participant tests positive for COVID after participating in a meeting, all in attendance at the meeting will be notified of the possible exposure.
- Specific names of COVID-positive individuals will not be communicated by the troop, but pertinent information about the specific area or activity in which the infected person participated will be shared so that others might gauge their own likelihood of exposure.

Evaluating Potential Activities

BSA has asked units to evaluate potential in-person activities for the following:

- Can participants stay six feet apart?
- Will each participant have his own equipment to use?
- Can shared equipment be sanitized between uses?
- Is frequent hand sanitizing possible if needed during the activity?

Indoor Meetings at St. Elizabeth Seton Church

- Meeting room capacities have been reduced, so larger spaces have been made available for meetings.
- Troop attendees are asked to enter & exit the building/room via a single door. (Look for the troop logo to find the entry/exit door directly into the social hall.)

- Masks are worn at all times, regardless of distancing.
- Attendance will be recorded by an adult upon arrival. (This does not substitute for a youth taking attendance for program/participation purposes.)
- Participants will be invited to sanitize the spaces they occupy before use.
- Hand sanitizer and cleaning products will be made available.
- Participants will be asked to sanitize their spaces as a courtesy after use.
- Youth leaders will designate a minimal number of Scouts to retrieve needed meeting materials from the storage area, and return them after use.
- Attendees (youth and adult) are asked to stay in the reserved meeting room except to use the bathroom or convene a breakout meeting (e.g., a board of review) in the Family Room.

Hybrid Programming

- For the foreseeable future, meetings that are held indoors will also be accessible by videoconference for those who are not comfortable attending in person.
- The remote experience will not be the same as the in-person experience. Scouting is a very hands-on, experiential program that cannot be translated 100% to a Zoom call.
- Troop youth leaders will establish a liaison in the room who
 - suggests how to prepare for the meeting
 - explains what is going on in the meeting
 - shares input from online participants as needed and practical

Other COVID-Related Adjustments

- BSA's modified rules for advancement during the pandemic are available on the Troop 202 website. This includes being able to do some requirements virtually, deferring some requirements to the next rank, and in a couple of cases skipping requirements completely. This is a short-term adjustment, and the rules have been updated frequently by BSA.
- Troop outings planned during the coming months will be held at venues closer to home so that individual parents may transport their children to the events.
- When overnight camping is offered as part of a troop outing, participants have the option to participate in the camping, or to participate only in day activities.
- If parents choose to arrange carpools or rides with others in the troop, they may do so. The troop is not involved in this.
- The troop's COVID protocol will be continuously assessed and updated as needed. We appreciate parents participating in the discussion and sharing their concerns.