



Minnesota Emergency Executive Order & Northern Star Scouting

November 12, 2020



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Northern Star Scouting COVID-19 Updates

On Tuesday November 10 the MN governor outlined an executive order aimed at doing the following:

- Curbing the spread of COVID-19 among 18-35 year olds
- Slowing the spread of the virus at bars and restaurants
- Providing guidelines for private social gatherings in homes, yards and other places
- Slowing the spread at large special events (like wedding receptions or holiday dinners)

Northern Star Scouting has been, and will continue to follow, the guidelines set forth in the School & Childcare Preparedness plans, which were only minorly affected by Tuesday's updates. Following the School & Childcare guidelines means that Scouting activities are not defined as social gatherings.



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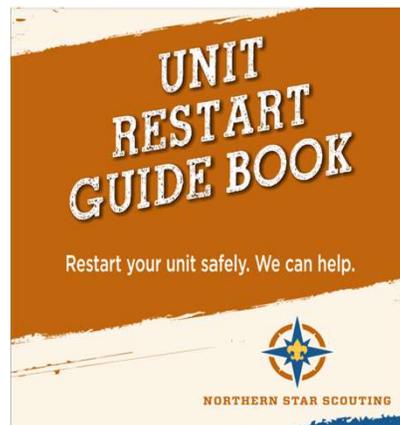
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Northern Star Units Can Still Meet in Person if They Choose

Guidelines to operate Scouting Safely have been in place for units since August (the 11/10 announcement only changes the ability to eat and drink inside). Ensuring that unit meetings and outings meet all the requirements will make the difference between a safe youth activity and a social event.

If a unit will not or cannot follow these guidelines they should NOT be meeting in person.



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Unit Meeting Guidelines

Where Can you Find the Unit Restart Guide

- Look for the Guide on the COVID-19 information page at www.northernstar.org under the 'Unit mtgs, activities and outings' tab
- Ask your commissioner to send you a copy
- Ask your District Executive to send you a copy
- Pick up a hard copy at the Customer Service desk at Base Camp

Guide Highlights for Safe Meetings

- Program group sizes of no more than 15 indoors and 25 outdoors
- Pre-event health screenings
- Adequate space to provide 6ft of physical distance for all participants
- Wearing of face coverings at all times when indoors and outdoors when distance cannot be maintained
- Protecting high risk individuals
- Increased hygiene during event
- No eating or drinking at indoor meetings or events

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What is Changing?

Here is a brief list of what is changing for units

- No eating or drinking at indoor Scout gatherings
- Unit, District and Council indoor events & celebrations (like Blue & Gold Banquets) must follow current event guidelines from the State and the new restrictions found below:

Receptions and Similar Events

- Phased in approach to attendance limitations.
 - **November 27:** 50 person limit
 - **December 11:** 25 person limit
- The events may not take place between 10:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m.
- No change to the actual wedding, funeral, or similar planned ceremony – only the connected reception, celebration, or similar gathering.

- Unit outings and campouts should still follow the guidelines in the 'Restart Guide', which establishes that they are not classified as social gatherings

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Optional Ways that your Unit can minimize COVID-19 transmission

This list is not required, but options to go above & beyond the minimum requirements include:

- Hold virtual meetings whenever community, school, or local virus rates makes your families uncomfortable
- Packs can supplement in person meetings with CUB CONNECTIONS (pre-recorded Pack lessons and monthly Council led live Pack meetings)
 - CUB CONNECTIONS and other virtual, at home and advancement opportunities for all units can be found at: www.northernstar.org/scouting-at-home
- Consider adding a question to your health screenings asking families to confirm compliance with the State's new restrictions on social gatherings (outside of Scouting)
- Hold meetings virtually for the 14 days after Thanksgiving and other Holidays where Scout families may be likely to break social gathering restriction outside of Scouting
- Consider replacing a monthly meeting with a staffed program at Base Camp, where staff will run programs to meet current safe guidelines and help hold all participants accountable for COVID safety

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