

Troop Pandemic Operating Plan

Parent Meeting 10/11/20



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Scout Troop 497
Texas, Maryland

10/23/2020
1

Topics

- Health & Safety
- Meetings
- Micro Event
- Outdoor Events
- Advancement
- Leadership
- P.A.S.S.
- Recruitment & Membership
- 2020 Program Schedule



Objectives

- Provide a safe and secure environment in which we can maintain the troop program until in person large group gatherings can resume.
- Retain and recruit scouts to maintain the troop membership as much as possible.
- Follow Covid guidelines to provide an outdoor program mitigating the risk of exposure as much as possible.



Health & Safety

- Guide to Safe Scouting Continues
 - With approved modifications (ie. 1 boy per tent)
- Temperature taking and form completion for each event.
- Masks, Social Distancing, and all other safety recommendations adhered to
- Permissions forms for each event



Meetings

- Large group gatherings still limited
- Troop meetings, PLC's, and Committee meetings remain virtual until further notice.
- Patrol meeting encouraged for Patrol Leaders – they can use zoom experience
- Patrol Parent reinstated to increase connection with troop families & scouts.
- Virtual meetings limited to 1 hour.



Micro Events

- July & August MB Classes successful!
- Monthly Micro-Events
 - 10 Scouts Max – 2 Adults Minimum
 - Non-overnight events
 - Merit Badges, Day Activities, PASS, Advancement, 1st Year Program
 - Need volunteers to keep these programs going through the rest of the year
- Please share any ideas that you might have for Micro Events that might interest you sons
- Thank you BRUCE CLASSING for organizing



Outdoor Events

- “Patrol Size” overnights
 - Patrol Members, 1-2 Seniors, 2 Adults
 - 2 days , 1 night in duration
 - 1 hour driving limitation
 - Try to get each scout out at least once



High Adventure Programs

- Florida Seabase – Trip leader - Peter Fitton
- Northern Tier – Trip leader – Frank Streuber
- Spaces may still be available. Please contact the trip leaders for further details.



Youth Protection

- BSA Rules
 - 72 Hour Training Rule – Parents Included
 - We encourage everyone to take the training
- St. Joseph Church Rules
 - Virtus Training for every registered adult



Youth Protection

- Troop Commitment to our Scouts' Safety
 - Background Checks
 - Guide to Safe Scouting
 - Youth Protection Guidelines
 - Communication with Scouts
 - Phone/ Email / Texting Rules



Communications & Support

- Scout weekly calls
- Website (www.troop497.org)
- Email updates is your email address accurate?
- Twitter Feed (ScoutTroop497)
- Facebook Page (Troop497)
- ***Please keep us posted if a Scout starts to lose interest!
Zoom effect!***



How do I get involved

- Troop Committee
- Parents Club
- Assistant Scoutmasters
- Come to a meeting
- Help with Patrol Trips
- Help with Merit Badge Program
- We can try to match your strengths with our needs



Our Parent's Commitment

- Support Son's Advancement & Participation
- *Transportation – Bring your son to the camping events*
- All Fundraising is on hold presently
- *Enjoy Scouting with your Sons*



Advancement

- BSA has modified requirements
 - Swimming tests (2nd & 1st class) deferred until each Scout's next rank (not Eagle)
 - Demonstration of water rescues can be done on land (2nd & 1st class)
 - Camping MB requirement 9b temporarily suspended
 - Camping activity options
 - Eagle Scout extension until Dec 31st. Still being discussed.
PLEASE WATCH DEADLINES



Advancement

- Micro-events focused in this area
- Scoutmaster conferences done with Zoom
 - Zoom calls set up in advance
 - Usually have more than one scout scheduled
 - Camera must be working
 - Parent must be in the room
- Boards of Review done with Zoom
- Must still complete requirements as written unless specifically altered by the BSA in writing.
- Service projects must be done with Covid rules in place.



Scoutbook.com

- ❖ Scoutbook.com is an online resource used to track your Scout's rank progress
 - ❖ Critical during COVID
- ❖ Parents and scouts can enter the scout's rank progress on the site
- ❖ Certified Leaders can approve after entry
- ❖ Experience is that leaders alone can't keep up with data entry



Scoutbook.com

- ❖ Please update son's information prior to each First Thursday
- ❖ An invitation should have been sent to you to join.
- ❖ **Chris McClelland** (mcclelland.chris@gmail.com) or **Adam Spence** (adam@spencefirm.com)



Leadership

- Difficult time to lead – finding our way
- Minimum requirements for successful terms
 - Senior Patrol
 - Can miss one zoom meeting per month
 - Must plan and be ready for zoom operation
 - Must attend and help with micro events
 - Must make required phone calls to patrol leaders



Leadership

- Patrol Leaders
 - Can miss one zoom meeting per month
 - Must plan and execute a zoom patrol meeting once per month
 - Must make required phone calls to patrol members weekly.
 - Note: Group Chats and texting does NOT fulfill this requirement
 - Must attend at least one Micro Event or Outdoor event (with parents' permission)



P.A.S.S.

- Micro Event for PASS will be planned
- Individual appointments with Pass Leaders
- Meal & Hike can still be done with planning
- All other requirements can be done either in person or with someone videoing the event live with one of our leaders.



Recruitment & Membership

- Extra effort must be made to keep in contact with our scouts
- Zoom-fatigue setting in
 - Scouts drifting away
 - Regular attendance is dropping
- Micro and Outdoor events will be critical
- Need additional adult leadership to help
- Troop presently numbers 78



2020 Program Events

- ***October 24/25 – Virtual Camping Trip***
 - Family Event
 - Earn a patch
 - Gamification with Prizes
 - Overnight camping in tents at homes
- Event Leader is Mr. Adam Spence



2020 Program Events

- ***November 7/8 – Patrol Camping – Broad Creek***
 - ½ of the Troop by Patrols
 - Narwhal, Scorpions, Thunderhawks, Wolverines,
 - New Patrol (to be named)
 - Patrol members, 2 adults, and a Senior
- Lunch, Dinner, Cracker-barrel, and Breakfast prepared by the patrol.
 - Perfect time to complete some cooking requirements for advancement.
 - P.A.S.S. meals can be completed on this trip
- Arrive by 10:00 on Saturday, Depart 12:00 on Sunday



2020 Program Events

- ***November 14/15 – Patrol Camping – Susquehannock***
 - ½ of the Troop by Patrols
 - Eagles, Gnu, Sharks, and Tigers
 - Patrol members, 2 adults, and a Senior
- Lunch, Dinner, Cracker-barrell, and Breakfast prepared by the patrol.
 - Perfect time to complete some cooking requirements for advancement.
 - P.A.S.S. meals can be completed on this trip
- Arrive by 10:00 on Saturday, Depart 12:00 on Sunday



2020 Program Events

- ***December 5th – Senior Surprise – Day Event***
 - Broad Creek – Dan Beard Campsite
 - Arrival 8:30 A.M. – Departure 5:30 P.M.
 - Day long patrol competition



2021 Program Events

- To be Determined depending upon pandemic status.
 - Objective is to have at 2-3 more overnight trips
 - Additional Day Events
 - Continued Merit Badge & Advancement Program



Event Procedures

- Please complete Covid questionnaire prior to arriving
 - Please do not attend if you have any symptoms listed on the questionnaire.
- Turn questionnaire in upon arrival, temperature will be taken. Do NOT leave prior to temperature check.
- Please bring 2 masks per person.



Event Procedures

- Scouts must tent alone or with family members if camping
- Social distancing will be in force whenever possible
- Transportation arrangements to be completed by the scouts' families.



We need your help

Zoom Troop Meeting sign in has been challenge

- We are asking the scouts to sign in to zoom meetings in a certain way
- They are not doing it and it is resulting in manual assignment to meeting room. Sometimes as many as 30 scouts individually
- Please help us educate them on the right way to join the zoom meeting
- Instructions are on the troop website



QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

