



October 2020

Plans for getting our Scout Group back together safely - Update

Dear parent/carer

Thank you to everyone who responded to our recent survey, you made some very valid points that we have taken on board. With this in mind we are continuing with our plans to return to face-to-face Scouting and we are hoping this will happen in January 2021, but obviously this depends on COVID restrictions and guidance. At the end of this letter you will find answers to common questions that were raised in response to the survey,

Although we have gone into Tier 2, we are still in Amber on the National Youth Organisations and Scout Association guidance and this means “restricted size group sessions can take place indoors and outdoors.”

Maximum group size:

- Activities involving young people: 15 young people and up to 5 leaders.
- Scout Network programmed activities: 6 people
- Adult activities (non-social) with no young people present: 6 people

Relevant Government Guidance: [National Youth Agency](#)

Face Coverings:

- Adults must wear face coverings indoors, unless they are leading an activity.
- Scouts and Explorers must wear face coverings indoors, including when using toilet facilities.

As always, our priority is to keep all young people and adults safe and we have started working on our risk assessments for the Scout HQ and the section meetings - the risk assessments have to be forwarded to Bromley District Scouts and once agreed they will be sent to GLSE Scout County for the final signing off before we start up again.

All events and activities will follow the Scouts' 'COVID Code':

- New control measures will be in place for all activities;
- Additional hygiene measures will be put in place;
- Social distancing will be observed;
- Group sizes will be limited; and
- Adjustments will be made for vulnerable young people or affected by COVID.

We'll share more detailed plans for the new safety measures we're putting in place during the autumn term and we'd encourage all parents and carers, young people and volunteers to raise concerns, ask questions and provide feedback. This can be done either via your section leaders or by email to gsl@23rdbromleyscouts.org

Best wishes

Jenny Owens
Group Scout Leader

FAQS

Question	Answer
Will parents/carers be asked every week to confirm their child has no symptoms or fever?	Parents/carers must not send their child to a section meeting if they (or anyone in their family) has a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss/change to their sense of smell or taste. We trust the judgment and honesty of our parents/carers, so will not require them to formally confirm this every week.
Will temperature checks be taken at the start of section meetings?	The Scout Association have stated that <i>"there is no requirement to check temperatures on arrival at Scouts activities"</i>
Will it be mandatory to wear masks?	Beavers and Cubs will not be required to wear face coverings (although they are free to if they want), however Scouts and Explorers must wear face coverings indoors (including when using toilet facilities).
Will the Scout HQ be deep cleaned after each use?	The Group is run by volunteers so it is not possible for a "deep clean" to be carried out after each use, however common touch points (e.g. door handles) will be sanitized and the toilets cleaned when each section has finished using the HQ.
How can social distances can be maintained whilst still keeping the fun at section meetings?	Our section leaders have some really exciting new socially distanced activities that will hopefully still make Scouting fun for the young people. The activities may be a little different to normal, but they will still be just as entertaining.
Will the young people be able to choose who else is in their group of 15 and will it remain the same?	Each section leader will organise their own groupings as necessary – they may be able to take preferences into consideration however please bear in mind that the leaders already have a lot extra to do and some sections are very large so it won't always be possible to meet everyone's preferences. The groupings that they are put in will need to remain the same.
If we decide we would rather not return to face to face Scouting yet, will we still have to pay subs and will the place be kept available?	If you decide that you would rather wait a little longer before returning to face-to-face Scouting that is absolutely fine - your position in your section will be kept and subs will not be due until you return.
Will the group be keeping details of those attending meetings for track and trace purposes?	All section leaders are required to keep electronic records of who attends each section meeting – these will be used for track and trace if required.
What should we do if we find out our child has tested positive for COVID after attending Scouts?	Please inform you section leader immediately if your child has tested positive for COVID.
What else will be different about section meetings?	The Kitchen will be out of bounds for everybody, so we encourage people to bring a drink of water with them if desired. There will only be one toilet in use and section meetings may have reduced timings.