

# Camping Program Frequently Asked Questions

Updated April 16, 2020

RE: Golden Empire Council Scouts, BSA Resident Camps (Lassen and Winton), Cub Resident Camp, and Day/Twilight Camp programs

## **Are we having Camp as scheduled?**

Yes! Our current plans are still the same for our summer season. We are ordering supplies, filling staff positions and working on training to provide the best experience for all of our campers.

## **Do you have a timeline for making changes to the summer schedule if needed?**

Yes – we have a detailed plan where we spell out 4 Scenarios for your review. This is the link. <http://www.gec-bsa.org/document/2020-summer-activity-update-decision-tree-info/198640>

**If stay at home orders continue into May or June, how will that effect June programs?** we have a detailed plan where we spell out 4 Scenarios for your review. This is the link. <http://www.gec-bsa.org/document/2020-summer-activity-update-decision-tree-info/198640>

## **How do we get medical form part C (Scouts, BSA Resident camp only) completed with shelter in place orders?**

We are working on medical form part C options. They will change and adapt based on when we are allowed to freely move about, but we foresee a shorter than normal period of time for camp preparations and are reviewing many options. Current thoughts include extending current medical forms that have expired within a 2-3 month period of camp. The main concerns we have are for first time campers who have not previously completed a Part C of the BSA Medical form. We are also concerned about our participants in the major risk categories for CoVID-19. While we have not come to a final decision, we will work with our families to assist in getting campers to camp while ensuring that we are caring for our campers' safety. We will update all of our families when a final decision is made and help to provide solutions where needed.

## **What is the Council doing to prevent someone from bringing CoVID-19 into camp?**

Units and families must monitor their personal situation and not let anyone displaying symptoms of CoVID-19 or who has been around anyone with CoVID-19 symptoms attend camp.

Camp Winton and Camp Lassen Scouts, BSA Resident Camp and Camp Lassen Cub Scout Resident Camp - Per BSA policy, all resident camp attendees receive an individual medical screening, including communicable disease screening, upon arrival at camp. We will also be implementing the 72 hour pre-check forms to be completed where each unit leader or designee must contact all participants 72 hours in advance and check on their wellbeing and have parents report a temperature taken for all participants in their household. Temperatures should again be taken at the gathering point to travel to camp.

Both will need to be reported at check-in (form will be supplied). We also will be taking temperatures ourselves as part of the check-in process. These screenings will apply to camp staff, participants, and adult leaders. Individuals who do not pass this screening will be sent home. Daily temperature checks will be required in the campsites by the unit leaders for all adults/youth at camp (including staff). We will work with our units to help provide digital thermometers if a unit is unable to provide their own.

Day/Twilight Camp programs – All youth and adults (including volunteer staff) will be checked each day at check in before the program starts. We will work hard to make this process as streamlined as possible, but know we all want to be as safe as possible while providing our amazing programs.

### **What are your plans to clean and sanitize camps and other facilities?**

A Scout is CLEAN! Keeping our camp and facilities clean is everyone's responsibility. We are reviewing and updating our camp cleaning policies, with an emphasis on high traffic areas and shared equipment. Our individual facilities used for Day/Twilight Camps will all have plans in place to meet the specific needs of that facility before the Day/Twilight camp begins.

### **Who is guiding your camp health and safety plans?**

Like all local Scout councils, Golden Empire Council is working closely with our board which is made up of volunteers in the medical, legal, safety, and insurance fields. Our council Health Advisor, Dr. Ruenell Adams Jacobs, is a member of this group and is involved in all of our planning of health protocols at summer camp, day and twilight camps, and all of our programs and operations. We are working to get additional guidance specific to the summer program operations and the current CoVID-19 situation.

### **When are payments due for camp?**

Our financial documents which will clearly outline options will be released no later than April 21st. We are encouraging our families to sign up for all programs now so that you guarantee your slot. We are not holding our families to previously posted refund policies and payment in full rules concerning signing up for merit badges.

### **Our unit is unable to meet and collect payments, so what can we do?**

We understand the challenges faced by units not meeting in person. Some units are having parents mail payments to the unit Treasurer. Others have set up Square, Venmo, or other funds transfer methods to facilitate camp payments. Please do your best to collect funds for camp fees payment. The most important thing is that you keep us informed of your unit's plans for summer activities.

### **The Council Office is closed. How do we pay?**

Please do not bring payments for drop-off at the office at this time. We are collecting the mail and processing payments on a daily basis, so feel free to mail your checks to us at P.O. Box 13558, Sacramento, CA 95853. Doubleknot can be used to process payments as

well. You can also contact us at [Camping@gec-bsa.org](mailto:Camping@gec-bsa.org) to assist with credit card payments.

**Will we receive refunds if camp is delayed or if we have families that can no longer participate?**

Yes. Refunds will be available if our summer plans are forced to change. We will also work with families on a one by one basis if the current issues are causing their family a hardship. We believe that summer camp is very important, especially this year and will do all in our power to help get all of our Scouts to camp. Please encourage your families to focus on staying healthy and strong during these uncertain times and as we get closer to camp, we will address all concerns. When we reach our milestones for decisions, that will drive our conversations about refunds and cancellations. Please note that our full financial policies for summer 2020 will be released April 21st.

**We are unable to sell Camp Cards. How are we going to afford camp when that was our main source of funds for program activities?**

We are looking at ways to help our units to get all of their Scouts to camp. We know that the delay on camp card sales has also made this hard. We are open to suggestions, but know it is in all of our best interest to get our Scouts to camp so we will work to help make that happen. We are working to have all of these options in place so once the stay orders are lifted, we can focus on the business of helping our youth get to camp. **Our goal is to release our financial assistance plans April 21<sup>st</sup>.** Camp is an integral part of our program and this year is even more important to help our Scouts get back to normal experiences. We need summer camp! Our Scouts need summer camp!

**Are Merit Badge sign ups still opening on April 7<sup>th</sup>?** Yes, at 10:00 a.m. on April 7<sup>th</sup>, the merit badge selection process will begin. Make sure you have your lists ready and take the time now to make sure that you can access the Doubleknot system and enter the names of your scouts to speed up the process on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Merit Badge schedules are available on our website at [www.gec-bsa.org](http://www.gec-bsa.org) under each specific camp. If you have questions or issues, please contact us directly at [camping@gec-bsa.org](mailto:camping@gec-bsa.org).

**I would like to change the numbers on my roster and cannot. Why?**

To help us track the numbers each week and control registrations so we are not overbooked in any of our sessions, we handle the addition or removal of individuals from your reservations. Please contact us at [camping@gec-bsa.org](mailto:camping@gec-bsa.org) for any needed assistance changing your reservation numbers.

**Can I still make payments for my reservation?**

Yes. You can make those payments through the Doubleknot system or by calling the Council Office between the hours of 8-12 Monday thru Friday. That number is 916-929-1417 or [camping@gec-bsa.org](mailto:camping@gec-bsa.org). Please remember that the office is not open, so all payments need to be made by phone or directly through Doubleknot. Please do not email your credit card information. If you need to make cash payment, contact us via email and we will work out the details.

**With the Council office closed, what is the quickest way to get assistance from the Camping Department?** The fastest way is to email us at [camping@gec-bsa.org](mailto:camping@gec-bsa.org). All of our camping employees have access to this email and are regularly monitoring it daily. You can also call us at (916) 333-5434 but you will get quicker results with an email during this time while we are working from home.

For your Day/Twilight camp questions, please reach out to your District Executive and District Leadership for assistance and information. If you have a registration issue, the Camping Department will be glad to offer our assistance. If it is a question about the actual camp, your District Leadership will have better information. You can find a list of our District Leadership in our website at <https://www.gec-bsa.org/about-us/contact-us/62261> or by clicking on the District tab at the top of the page which will take you to the individual District information pages.

**Will we be having the May 2<sup>nd</sup> pre-camp meeting for Camp Lassen and Camp Winton Resident Camps?**

We will not be having the May 2<sup>nd</sup> in person pre-camp meeting. Please look for more information on a virtual meeting after our May 18<sup>th</sup> decision about the June 14 and June 21<sup>st</sup> weeks at camp. We will do these meetings based on your reservation week. If you have specific questions that are not answered in this FAQ, please email us at [camping@gec-bsa.org](mailto:camping@gec-bsa.org) and we will be happy to answer them.

**Should I just wait until after May 18<sup>th</sup> to work on camp with my Unit just in case plans change?**

We suggest that you continue your preparations for Summer 2020 just as you have for any other year. We know that for resident camp, having the leaders meeting a bit later might leave you with unanswered questions, so ask now by emailing [Camping@gec-bsa.org](mailto:Camping@gec-bsa.org). We are here to help and are pushing forward to provide that great experience for all of our Scouts and Scouters for Summer 2020. We are looking forward to seeing everyone, hearing the laughter, enjoying the merit badge classes, participating in activities, day/twilight camp activities, and more and we know your Scouts are as well.