



### **Camp Update #5 June 2, 2020**

Operations update regarding summer of 2020 and Unit,  
District and Council use of camp properties  
During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Please know that the safety of Participants and our Staff is priority #1 and we are planning to offer an outdoor experience for youth and adults who have otherwise been indoors for some time.

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to be a significant health concern, one that the BSA takes very seriously. The North Florida Council and the Boy Scouts of America are committed to providing a safe and quality program for young people who will be participating in programs at our properties: St Johns River Base and Camp Shands.

After carefully reviewing CDC guidelines for summer camps and meeting with our local county health department we feel very confident to offer a summer camp program in 2020. We understand you need information now in order to plan and communicate with other leaders and parents, therefore here is our most updated information and guidance. We have prepared this update to assist units in answering some questions that are on everyone's minds and to assist you in communicating with your Scouts and families as you are preparing to attend our camp this summer.

#### ***Resident Camp at Camp Shands***

Camp Shands resident camp will be in operation this summer with program modifications and a delayed start. We are running four weeks of Scouts BSA resident Camp beginning on June 28, 2020. Scouts BSA Troops that have reservations for earlier in June are being contacted and provided an opportunity to move to a later week in July, apply deposits to future programs/camps, make a contribution to support Camp Shands or request a refund.

We know Summer Camp at Camp Shands will be very different than in previous years. Physical distancing, increased sanitizing procedures and group size restrictions will limit the camp's ability to offer all merit badge programs and activities. Participants can expect medical screenings before departure, upon arrival and daily while on site. Revised dining hall operations will be taking place. It is very probable not all program areas will be available. We have developed several program and operational contingencies.

Further, while precautions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 while at camp will be in place, participants are advised that these precautions do not remove the potential for exposure to COVID-19 or any other illness while at camp. Some people with COVID-19 show no signs or symptoms of illness but can still spread the virus, and people may be contagious before their symptoms occur. These factors mean that an infected person may pass the required health screenings and be allowed into camp. We also know the very nature of camp makes social distancing difficult in many situations and impossible in others.

### ***What should I Expect?***

This summer will be different, but the spirit of camp will be there, some of the changes that Camp will have this summer is that it will start on Sunday and end on Friday this is being done to permit adequate time to perform a deep-cleaning and sanitization of all areas of camp including tents, cots, campsites, benches, program areas and more as we get everything ready for the next group of campers. The experience will start with a different type of check-in. Every unit will be given a check-in time and we will perform a medical screening on every camper and staff member. Breakfast and lunch will be served at the campsites while dinner will continue in the dining hall or you can choose to have a dinner luau in the Aquatics Center upon a specified schedule. We will be practicing social distancing by limiting the number of participants in classes, campsites and activities.

### ***What about Summer Camp Fees?***

We understand the hardship this situation has created for units and Scouts' fundraising efforts for camp; because of this we have extended Early Bird Pricing for Camp Shands for the duration of the 2020 season. No Late fees will be charged for not paying your fees on time.

### ***What kind of program changes will take place this year?***

Each campsite will work as an "outpost" together and this will serve as the Scouts' home while they are attending, each outpost will visit eight program areas during the week and each day they will have a morning and afternoon session for approximately three periods. Some of these program areas will include Shooting Sports, Crafts, Scout Skills, Nature and up to three Aquatics opportunities will be given. Within the program areas there will be four classes your Scouts may choose from which will include merit badges, advancement or fun activities!

### ***What should you be telling your scouts and families?***

We need you to talk to your Scouts, adults and families about social distancing (a.k.a. physical distancing) which is going to be everyone's challenge. When groups form, we must be empowered to have everyone take a step or two backwards to ensure we are staying safe with each other. We are recommending your unit bring masks and wear when appropriate, especially at times when social distancing becomes difficult. You will see our staff wearing masks when we are unable to social distance and when indoors (and not eating).

***What about weekend Unit, District and Council camping/use at Camp Shands and the Saint Johns River Base?***

The camps remain closed at this time. We are working to open up the St. Johns River Base to our units in the month of July. This will allow troop, packs and crews to plan summer activities at the unit level and have them in a safe environment. We will issue an update soon on availability and what activities your unit can take advantage of while staying on our property. For more information please visit [www.campshands.org](http://www.campshands.org), [www.aquaticscamp.org](http://www.aquaticscamp.org) and [www.nfcscouting.org](http://www.nfcscouting.org)

Yours in Scouting,

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