

Chief Seattle Council 2021 – COVID – 19 Policies

Please note, this is an evolving document, and as information changes, so will our COVID-19 guidelines for Summer 2021.

Introduction:

Chief Seattle Council (CSC) has spent the last several months monitoring how the camping industry has responded to COVID-19. While most camps did not open during the 2020 summer, several camps did open with success when proper protocols were followed. The camping industry has learned from these successes and learned how to adapt program to have a quality experience. We have taken these camps' experiences alongside recommended practices to create this document to operate camp safely in 2021.

The information surrounding COVID-19 is constantly changing and evolving. This document organizes our procedures published by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and American Camp Association (ACA). The current guidelines outlined below intend to provide camp families and staff with information about how CSC is adopting policies and procedures to mitigate the risk of COVID-19. These guidelines have been created in consultation with the Chief Seattle Council Risk Management Committee, county health departments, and outside experts.

These health protocols may adjust as we continue to review the latest data and guidance from public health officials.

Important Note: Precautions cannot fully prevent the potential for exposure to COVID-19 or any other illness while at Chief Seattle Council camps. Persons with COVID-19 may show no signs or symptoms of illness, but still spread the virus, and people may be contagious before their symptoms occur. It is possible that someone with COVID-19 may pass the required health screenings and be allowed into camp.

Preparing for Camp:

- Unit Leaders will be required to attend an online Leaders Meeting addressing the changes to camp for the 2021 season.
- BSA Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist and COVID-19 waiver will be required for each participant 1-2 days prior to camp. These documents must be submitted upon arrival.
- Sick individuals (temperature above 100.4 °F) are not eligible to attend Chief Seattle camping programs.
- Health form requirements as determined by the Boy Scouts of America will be followed – status of these requirement will be updated on the [Summer camp 2021 FAQ](#) webpage.
- Units must communicate to participants and their immediate household that everyone should ensure proper social distancing two weeks prior to attending Chief Seattle Council camps.
- All members of the unit must have at least a 2oz. bottle of hand sanitizer on their person and use it frequently.

Check in/Screening:

- Units will park in main parking lot and stay in their vehicles until a staff member comes to check them in. Procedures for each camp will be discussed during required leaders meeting.
- If youth or adult in the vehicle has symptoms, fever, or have been in known contact with an individual with COVID-19, the vehicle will be sent home.
- Face masks will always be required.

Testing During Camp:

- CSC will work with outside vendors for any testing requirements. At this time tests will not take place on the property.

Sanitations Protocols:

Sanitation protocols will follow CDC guidelines.

Enhancements:

- Increased access to handwashing or sanitizer stations across camp.
- Hand sanitizer and or hand washing stations will be provided in every building and high traffic areas.
- Handwashing will be required prior to all meals.
- Our staff will clean all bathrooms, shared spaces, and high traffic areas multiple times each day.
- Bathrooms will be sanitized frequently throughout the day between deep cleanings.
- Program equipment will be sanitized before and after a pod/cohort uses it.
- Additional signage will be posted through camp as a reminder of these health protocols.

Mask Policy:

CSC campers and staff must wear masks except when eating, sleeping, showering, and in some program areas such as Aquatics.

Communication:

If a participant develops symptoms that could be COVID-19 during or following camp, members of their pod/cohort will be notified in coordination with local health departments.

If there is a confirmed positive case of COVID-19, we will notify all campers' unit leaders by phone, while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the current privacy laws. We are unable to share names or identifying information regarding medical information for any camper or staff member.

Each participant will receive a post event follow-up sheet with directions in the event a participant develops symptoms and tests positive 10 days after their session ends.

We are required to notify state and local health officials of any confirmed positive test.

Camper Orientation:

Campers will receive an orientation on the first day of camp to introduce staff, discuss general camp rules and updates to any operational guidelines. These items will include:

- What camp is doing to protect everyone from becoming ill
- Ground rules for operating in “smaller groups” or “pods”
- Handwashing protocols
- Physical distancing guidelines
- Mask wearing instructions and policies
- Dining hall procedures
- What symptoms to look out for and how to report them
- Daily temperature checks and when they will happen

Campsites:

- Units will be placed in pods/cohorts with their own campsite with shared bathroom and private showers. Each facility will be on a staff cleaning schedule.
- Cleaning chemicals that are used are based on the CDC recommendations.
- Units will have the option to bring additional tents dependent on the size of the campsite.

Camper Pods/Cohorts:

- Pods/cohorts will be assigned upon arrival; this will be your group for the entire session.
- Pods/cohorts will have staff members assigned for the session. Staff members will be screened multiple times a day.
- These staff will be cross trained to teach advancement in campsite and in program areas.

Activities/Program:

- Scout BSA units will have the ability to earn merit badges, these lists will be posted in March 2021.
- Merit Badge Sign up – will take place with a staff host in campsite on arrival day; participants will be assigned rotations to complete advancements that require specialized staff.
- Scouts can work on other merit badges prior to camp. They will need to complete prerequisites.
- Assemblies – Pods/cohorts will have a designated location in which to meet (campfire, emergency drills, camp wide games)
- Limited exposure will happen for some staff activities that require specific training.
- Scouts own and flags will be done in campsite.
- Camp wide games – will look different and are in planning – these will be discussed during the required leaders meetings.

Food Service:

- We will follow ALL food service guidance regulations from the county in which the camp is located.
- Food distribution will be “cafeteria style” with no contact by participants with common surfaces, serving utensils, and disposable or rolled utensils.
- All campers will eat with their pod/cohort’s groups.
- Mealtimes will be staggered in some cases.
- Pods/cohorts have the option to eat outdoors whenever the weather allows.
- The kitchen and dining hall will be cleaned and disinfected after each meal.
- Dining halls will have windows/doors open when in use (open air), and have limited capacity.
- *Camp Parsons, Pigott, and Edward will have different meal service plans – these will be discussed during the required leaders meeting.*

Trading Post:

- Trading post will be available and operate with limited capacity. More information will be provided to unit leaders at check-in.

Visitors:

- We will be enforcing a strict “no visitors” policy.
- Only campers and staff will be allowed onto camp property.
- Deliveries will have designated drop-off areas at each property.
- If essential services (i.e. propane delivery) do need to enter the property, drivers will not have any direct contact with campers or staff. They will be required to wear PPE and maintain physical distancing while on property.

Staff Wellness:

- CSC staff will be subject to daily medical review, mandatory illness reporting, and temperature checks. Staff will be required to:
 - Attend COVID-19 specific training
 - Socially distance from all non-assigned participants
 - Socially distance from the public whenever possible and adhere to social distancing when in public.
 - Wear facial coverings in common areas, retail, food service areas, and whenever prudent/possible.
- Staff will be assigned to “pods” or “cohorts” for the duration of the week, and will be trained on COVID-19 protocols and screened regularly.
- Program or specialty staff will interact with participants in program areas that require further training or skills to teach. These staff will follow all COVID-19 protocols and be screened regularly.

Conclusion:

It is important to note that this document reflects the current conditions if camp were to start today. While we can not promise that COVID-19 will not exist, we can commit to consistent safety measures and protocols being followed by our staff. We are committed to providing a safe outdoor experience for our participants. We will continue to update these policies and provide further detail when necessary.

Resources:

American Camp Association:

[Field Guide for Camps on Implementation of CDC Guidance](#)

WA State Department of Health:

[Child Care, Youth Development, and Day Camps During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

Center for Disease Control – COVID -19 Resource Page:

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

Forms:

Chief Seattle Council (CSC) – COVID -19 waiver

Boy Scouts of America Pre Screening Checklist

Post Camp Handout