(Updated 3-16-20) Erie Shores Council, BSA - Actions Regarding COVID-19

Dear Erie Shores Council Scouting Family,

A lot is rapidly unfolding across our country and specifically in Ohio responding to the governor’s requests on how we best handle COVID-19, including several updates from over the weekend.

Here is an update of the Erie Shores Council operations, regarding COVID-19

**Jadel Leadership Center**
Effective Monday, March 16, the Jadel Leadership Center & Iott Scout Shop are closed for the remainder of the week. Concurrently, all ESC staff have begun a process to meet virtually, respond to emails, make calls, and continue day-to-day business to best serve our volunteers remotely.

If you need to conduct business with the council service center, please do it by phone, e-mail or US mail. Web-conferencing is being set up for future meetings as needed. Given the fluidity of the situation, with safety of community in mind, our goal will be to provide guidance updates weekly every Sunday at approximately 6:00 pm.

Please watch your e-mail, council website: https://www.erieshorescouncil.org/ and social media https://www.facebook.com/erieshorescouncil/ for updates.

**District and Council Events**
All district and council events have been cancelled from this past weekend, through the coming week. This included the District Pinewood Derbies and Youth Honors Banquets this past weekend. We are developing plans, as well as, training our team to host future District and council meetings as a conference call or web meeting service.

**Unit Meetings Activities & Events**
Unit leadership is encouraged to follow State of Ohio and CDC guidelines in response to COVID-19. Consideration should be given to conducting monthly leader and committee meetings, and other meetings using virtual web technology.

**FREE OR LOW-COST WEB TECHNOLOGY & RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO UNITS:**

- www.freeconferencecall.com (teleconference and web meeting services)
- www.webex.com (web meeting service)
- www.gotomeeting.com (web meeting service)
- www.joinme.com (web meeting service)
All units should comply with their charter organization’s policy on meetings and gatherings regarding unit-level activities. Our Scout’s safety should be our number one priority. Please utilize guidance provided by the CDC, your local authorities, and chartering organizations in determining whether to cancel or postpone your events.

If you do choose to have meetings, keep them to groups of **10 or less** individuals and if anyone is sick STAY HOME. **Many of our units have already moved to virtual, web-based meetings and this is a recommended solution.** Look for communications and resources to be provided to units on how to continue to serve their members and families during this challenging time. The council is working to develop these needed resources.

**Camp Miakonda and Camp Frontier**
Both camps will be closed this weekend, March 20-22nd, this includes all unit, district, or council events. The council will allow units to change their reservation based upon availability and the reservation holder will be credited the amount to be used within the next year.

**Summer Camp Update**
Summer camp has not been affected at this time by this news. All payments and reservation deadlines will be reviewed in the future if necessary.

As is our practice in Scouting, our efforts are focused on preparation and responsiveness guided by official health organizations, including the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** and the **World Health Organization**. Remaining vigilant in hand hygiene and social distancing are some of the most important practices, especially in communities where there is confirmed community spread of the virus. The CDC offers helpful aids to guide these efforts, including:

- Keeping Workplaces, Homes, Schools and Commercial Establishments Safe
- Framework for Mitigation

As Scouts and Scouters, I know we will all use the principals of the Scout Oath and Law, along with our Slogan and Motto to guide us though these challenging times.

Please know that we look forward to resuming normal Scouting activities as quickly as possible!

Be Prepared,

James D. Wilson | Council Board President
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
Erie Shores Council

Edward A. Caldwell | Scout Executive/CEO
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
Erie Shores Council