

March 16, 2020

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCOUT EXECUTIVE

Dear Tukabatchee Scouting Family,

As always, your safety and the safety of all our members, volunteers, and employees is our top priority. We know there are questions and concerns about how COVID-19, commonly known as the coronavirus, will affect local Scouting programs in Tukabatchee Area Council. Please know that we are monitoring developments regarding COVID-19 both locally and with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#).

As of Friday evening, the state of Alabama is now under a public health emergency, and public-school systems will be closed from March 18th through April 6th. We will be closing both camps for outings and unit campouts during this same window of time.

Status of Council Events

At this time, the following activities and events have been cancelled or postponed:

- ***Ecunchatee District Camporee***
- ***Muskogee District Camporee***
- ***Annual Eagle Recognition Dinner***

We will communicate out any rescheduled dates as soon as possible. Also, due to the impact of preventative measures, we will be extending the sales window for our Camp Card sales, allowing youth and units to re-establish sales efforts later in the spring. You may monitor event updates here: Tukabatchee Area Council Facebook page, or the council website – www.tukabatcheebsa.org.

At this time, the Montgomery Scout Service Center and Montgomery Scout Shop will both remain open for their normal business hours.

Full refunds will be issued for cancelled activities, if those activities are not rescheduled.

I am also recommending that all BSA unit meetings, outings and activities be suspended from now until April 6th at a minimum. Please ensure that all youth members and parents and your chartered organization are notified promptly about your altered program schedule.

BSA Policies to Prevent the Spread of Illness

The Boy Scouts of America continues to have policies and procedures in place that help protect participants from contracting an illness at larger Scouting events. These include the [Annual Health and Medical Record](#) and the [Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist](#).

Everyday Preventive Measures

Even with those important policies in place, it is critical that we continue to take these everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases:

- **Stay home when you feel sick**
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- **Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve/elbow, not your hands.**
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe. A challenge with COVID-19 is that it is an *encapsulated virus* and can live much longer on an inorganic surface like a handrail or a doorknob.
- Do not share personal items such as cups, water bottles, eating utensils, etc.
- Avoid shaking hands.
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.** If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

If you have a fever, cough, or other symptoms associated with COVID-19, or if you believe you may have been exposed to COVID-19, you should isolate and not go to work or attend any Scouting or other community events. People who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately.

Should you have any questions or concerns about a specific upcoming event or activity, please reach out to your local district executive. We will do everything we can to answer your question using the information available to us. Remember to Be Prepared and stay vigilant. On behalf of Council President Jack Payne and Council Commissioner Freddie Lynn, Jr, thanks for all that you do for local Scouting!

Yours in Scouting,
Rodney G. Cousin – Scout Executive/CEO