

## **Trinity Sponsored Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Units Re-Opening Plan**

One of the youth ministries of Trinity UMC is the Boy Scouts of America. Going forward, the church will be sponsoring two Scouts, BSA troops, one Venturing Crew, and one Cub Scout Pack. Troop 869 is chartered to Trinity UMC and has been a vibrant Troop for many years, supported by the Methodist Men. Trinity UMC, as a Chartered Organization, is welcoming this summer Scouts BSA Troop 1130, Venture Crew 1130, and Cub Scout Pack 1127, who are transferring from Charles Wesley UMC.

As have the rest of the church ministries, all these units stood down from their normally very active schedules of activities when the COVID-19 virus hit. While they all have been conducting virtual meetings and activities, Troop 869 (only) would like to restart some activities to take advantage of some of the summertime weather. To that end the Troop, supported by discussions between the leadership of the Troop, the Chartered Organization Representative, the Chair of the Methodist Men, and Trinity's Minister, has identified the plan that the HCT will require the Troop to follow as they start some minimal face-to-face activities, and hold Troop meetings as well as smaller group sessions.

So as to assist units that desire to hold some summertime in-person activities, and to lay out protocols and requirements for all four units to follow during Stage 2 (as directed by the VA UMC Conference and Arlington District), the following re-opening plan requirements and protocols are provided:

- All unit leadership teams will read, and acknowledge the requirements and protocols identified in the VA UMC Technical Assistance Manual for Local Churches (revised 8 Jul 2020). They will also read and acknowledge the requirements and protocols being universally applied by Trinity UMC as part of the church's "Return to In-Person Worship and Other Gatherings Plan" (Plan). Additionally, they will acknowledge and agree to any further specific protocols and requirements as applied within this Attachment.

Key to this plan is the focus by the church, through the Healthy Church Team, of ensuring that the four basic practices of hygiene, physical distancing, face coverings, and health screening are followed, with the goal of ensuring safe in-person meetings and gatherings.

- In addition to compliance with the Trinity "Plan", units will follow the guidance provided by the National Capital Area Council, BSA on 12 June 2020, to all council Scouting units, in regard to "going-back-to-Scouting" as listed below:

*"Recently, the states and counties comprising NCAC have started to relax COVID-19 restrictions related to in person gatherings. This is good news and has many people excited to resume face-to-face Scout activities.*

*"As there is a significant variance in the state and county phased reopening programs being implemented across our Council's territory, it is difficult to provide an "all inclusive" statement for all of our NCAC units. As such, we would like to provide the following general guidance regarding resumption of in person Scouting activities.*

- *The Unit Key Three (Committee Chair, Scoutmaster, Chartered Organization Representative) should determine what activities and in-person gatherings are permitted for the county in which the unit is chartered.*
- *The Key Three should then work with the adult committee to determine if the unit is prepared to begin in-person meetings or activities.*
- *If consensus exists among the adult committee members, the Key Three should consult with the Chartered Partner to secure their support for the resumption of in person meetings or activities.*

- *It is the responsibility of the unit's Key Three and adult committee to understand and ensure all state/county restrictions and required Covid-19 safety precautions are taken. Units traveling to other states/destinations for camp/activities are responsible for knowing and adhering to the restrictions and precautions of those areas.*
- *Units following the restrictions and administering the precautions are covered by the BSA insurance program.*
- *In addition to precautions required by states and counties we ask you to incorporate the processes included in BSA's Restart Scouting Checklist as you resume unit activities.*

So as to assure the safety and well-being of all unit members, leaders, and families, the following specific protocols and requirements are stipulated during Stage 2 for TUMC sponsored units:

- First and foremost, unit leadership will ensure the safety of their units by complying with all State, local, and Scouting COVID-19 safety guidance (both National and local).
- Units will provide a schedule of events to the Chartered Organization Representative (COR), to be held or contemplated over the next six months for appropriate church review and outside facility scheduling.
- Units may meet with up to 50 total participants (scouts and adults) on church property. The units will maximize the use of small groups (patrols, crews, dens) for many of their activities. This will include spreading out across the church property, ensuring safe social distancing.
- As stipulated in the Trinity HCT "Plan", for attendance at any unit meeting/session conducted on Trinity property all attendees will be required to fill out a Health Acknowledgement Form. The Health Acknowledgement Form and other health related information will be reviewed by the unit leadership and be retained in a secure file. If required, the Health Acknowledgement Form and other health related information will be made available for review by the District Superintendent, the Cabinet, the Office of the Bishop, or the Chancellor, for COVID-19 contact tracing by the Department of Health.
- Units will screen meeting participants prior to participating in in-person events. This includes confirming their temperature does not exceed 100.0 F (per BSA guidelines). These steps must be complete before a Scout attends an event.
- All participants will wear face coverings and social distance (stay at least 6 feet apart).
- While encouraging all meeting attendees to bring their own personal hand sanitizer liquid, units will have available hand sanitizer for back-up use on arrival and/or departure.
- While at this point, one Troop will be conducting the activities as outdoors only, and will not utilize any church buildings, requirements for safe distancing, face coverings, and sanitizing remain the same. Once the church is fully open for business, and organizations like the Scouts and missions and ministries are allowed to meet inside the building, units will comply appropriately, as permitted by the church. At that point, this Attachment will be revised to address in-side meetings.
- Units will remind (e.g., via periodic email) Scouts not to participate if they have been exposed to someone suspected to have COVID-19, or if they have any symptoms of COVID-19. Units will also be clear that while it is taking measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and keep Scouters safe, these actions cannot eliminate risk, and Scouts and families must make their own determination regarding participation.

For current summertime activities, units will comply with the following:

- Scouts will minimize sharing of tools and other equipment. In cases where sharing of tools occurs, the Troop will sanitize equipment and/or have Scouts sanitize their hands before and after use.
- Units may resume outdoor activities off of church property, such as hiking trails that are open, as allowed by the BSA so long as they can adhere to the above safety requirements.
- Units will work with any Scout who is not able or is uncomfortable participating in in-person events to ensure they can continue to make progress against rank requirements, and earn merit badges, consistent with BSA guidance.
- If desired, and as allowed by the local Scouting council, the Scouts BSA troops and Venture Crew may resume overnight local camping, and will adhere to the above appropriate safety direction. Camping will follow the following additional guidelines:
  - o Tenting will be accomplished “one tent, one person”.
  - o Safe social distancing will be followed.
  - o Face-masks will be utilized except when eating.
  - o Use of Health Acknowledgement Forms will be utilized, as well as BSA 3-part health forms.
  - o Transportation to camping sites will be by family groupings only.
- Scouts BSA troops and the Venture Crew may resume overnight camping at further distances (including outside of Virginia), so long as it can adhere to the above, as well as adhere to additional guidelines of the state and local jurisdiction the troop would be camping in. Where long-term camps are out-of-state, the appropriate state COVID019 safety requirements will be complied with.

**Notes: Although the Commonwealth of Virginia has cancelled long-term camps from opening this summer due to safety with mass groups, camping in smaller family size groups is allowed, as seen by camping allowed at Virginia State parks.**

Future Actions – At this point in time (July 2020), all activities being planned by Scouting units, are either being conducted outdoors or virtually. In the future, when Trinity’s overall Plan has been accepted for a return to in-person worship and inside activities for various organizations, this Attachment to the Trinity Plan will be modified and updated depending on further relaxation of various meeting stipulations and safety guidelines.

At that point there will be additional direction provided of specific space utilization and capacity, cleaning requirements, and other aspects of building utilization. It is understood that when and if that revised plan is promulgated, Trinity’s sponsored units desire to hold larger units meetings at TUMC are contemplated as follows:

- o Scouts BSA Troop 869 – Troop meeting each Monday night starting in Sep.
- o Scouts BSA Troop 1130 – Troop meetings each Tuesday night starting in Sep
- o Venture Crew 1130 – Crew meetings TBD
- o Cub Pack 1127 – Pack meetings the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, starting in Sep