Operational Changes for Mitigwa Scout Camp in Response to COVID 19.

We are excited to announce that Mid-Iowa Council has decided to move forward with camp operation for the summer of 2020. This decision was not taken lightly, as a group of dedicated volunteers have put countless hours of brainstorming and researching all the possible scenarios to make Mitigwa Scout Reservation as safe as we can for all who come to the hills above the river. It is important to know that there is still a risk that someone could contract the virus this summer. Mid-Iowa Council is implementing many practices to mitigate the virus but it is impossible to eradicate it. Even with the best practices in place, it is possible for the virus to still be at camp. This is a risk we understand, and you should too.

Let us walk through some of our policies and procedures we will be putting into place to help keep Mitigwa Scout Reservation as safe as we possibly can.

PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

1. Participants will be required to fill out a pre camp screening form (appendix A). If there is a recorded temperature above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit during this pre-check, but it remains normal the following 72 hours, the participant will be allowed to attend Camp. If the temperature does not drop without the use of fever reducing medication the participant should not attend camp. Each participant will need to provide this form upon arrival to camp during their health screening.
2. All participants must have a completed parts A, B, and C Medical form with Doctor’s signature for annual Health Check.
3. Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. If you are in this group, please ensure you have approval from your health care provider prior to attending camp.
4. We are encouraging units to arrive together as one group in order to manage the checking process more efficiently. Our suggestion is to meet at one location and carpool together.
5. Before loading all the cars to come to camp, take one last temperature check of every participant. If a participant is showing a temperature of 100.4 or greater, they will need to stay home. If this occurs, the participant will receive a full refund.
6. Each vehicle will need to place a sign in the front driver’s side window on the dash with the following information. (Please print Large and Clearly)
   a. Large Print Unit Number
   b. Home Council Name
   c. Hometown Name
   d. Campsite Name

ARRIVING AT CAMP

Our Unit check-in procedure is going to look different this year compared to years past. For everyone’s safety we are asking the following from each unit.

1. Units will be asked to register for a time slot to arrive in camp. We are limiting the number of units to help with our health checks that must be done before entering camp.
2. As your unit arrives to camp, please ensure that the first vehicle that passes through the gate has the primary leader in it. Please try your best to have all vehicles arrive at the same time.

3. When each vehicle passes through the gate they will be asked to pull to the side. Please make sure each occupant of the vehicle has their face covering on at this point. Each person in the vehicle will have their temperature taken. If someone in the vehicle is above 100.4, the car will not continue into Camp. They will be given 20 minutes to rest in the shade and then be rechecked. If the temperature is still above 100.4, the person with the temperature, along with everyone in the vehicle will be sent home. A full refund will be provided to every participant that is turned away.

4. After all checks are completed, the vehicle will be directed to the main parking lot where a Reservation Staff member will greet them and direct the entire unit to their check in station. We ask all participants wear their face covering at this time.

5. Each participant will go through their individual health screening. For the screening, each participant will need to have their own Parts A, B, and C medical form in hand. They will also need their 7 Day Temperature Check Form that was completed. These will be handed to the examiner.

6. Once each participant completes their medical check, they will be given their wrist band that must be worn at all times. The unit will then proceed to their campsites to set up. Remember that you will need to set aside a cooking area for the week separate from the tenting area.

7. Sunday dinner will be served outside Blank Dining Hall. Troops will be separated by at least 10 feet between each group.

**WHILE IN CAMP**

We must all remain vigilant the entire week in order to help mitigate COVID-19 in camp. It has been proven that the virus is spread person to person through contact that is close enough to share droplets generated by coughing, sneezing, speaking, and even just breathing. COVID-19 can also be spread by touching objects where contaminated droplets have landed. We will be implementing the following safety procedures to help keep our campers as safe as possible.

1. The CDC still recommends that we maintain Social Distancing to the best of our ability. We are asking that all participants maintain a safe 6 foot minimum distance from other participants as much as possible. Face Coverings are encouraged to help mitigate the spread of the virus. In the case that social distancing is not possible, participants will be required to wear a face covering to help protect the person you are working with, this includes staff as well as other campers.

2. If you enter any building in camp and are working directly with another person, you will be asked to wear your face covering. If you enter the office commissary, or trading post areas, the face covering must be worn due to limited space.
   a. There will be a limit of 2 visitors in the main office at a time.
   b. There will be a limit of 15 visitors in the trading post at a time.
   c. Food and snack services will only take place through the service window on the east side of the Firestone Trading Post.

3. Units will experience a demonstration for what their role will be in keeping latrines and soapis clean and sanitized for the week (appendix B). A Mitigwa Scout Reservation Staff member will sanitize public areas at least 2 times a day.

4. Garbage from each campsite will be placed in the provided receptacle. A Reservation Staff Member will pick up receptacles once a day.

5. Shower times will be assigned based on open area times.

6. This year we will not have any meals within the confines of the Dining Hall. All units will prepare their meals in campsites. This year we will be utilizing some of the same plans that are used at the National
Jamboree. Each morning and evening, the unit will head to their designated pick up point where they will receive their partially prepared meal. All prep work will be done prior to cooking. A simple recipe will be given out with the supplies to use as a guideline in preparing the meal. During the day, bag lunches will be given so that prep work does not need to be done.

7. Daily Flag Ceremonies will be held morning and evening in each campsite. Daily announcements will be given in a different format. This will be subject to change.

**MERIT BADGE ROTATION - CONCENTRIC CIRCLES**

This year our programming will be delivered in a manner never before used. We will be setting up groups (referred to circles) of around 50 participants. It is set up this way to minimize interaction with other participants outside your circle. Participants will stay within this circle throughout the week participating in Merit Badges, Open Areas, Campfires, etc. **We will not be holding online merit badge sign up on June 2nd.** Scouts will be given the choices of badges that they can take once they arrive in each area. Eagle Academy instructors will be at multiple areas providing learning opportunities for first year campers.

**PROGRAMMING CHANGES**

- No off-site programming will take place. This includes the Aquatic High Adventure.
- COPE will not take place due to the limitations with Social Distancing
- Friday Afternoon Carnival will not take place.
- Cardboard Regatta will still take place on Friday within your concentric circle.
- Campfires will not take place as they have in the past. More details will be given when you arrive to camp.
- Friday Excursions will not take place this year.
- Merit Badge Midway will be discontinued this year. We hope to have this back in 2021.
- Currently, we are working with the Mitigwa Lodge on how Order of the Arrow will participate in camp.

**WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP (This is above and beyond what is printed in the leader's guide.)**

- At least one digital thermometer. We recommend the infrared forehead type as to minimize contact with each participant in your unit. Each unit will be required to record temperatures and complete a daily health check of each participant. Forms will be provided at camp and will be turned in daily.
- Since Camp is not providing any canvas this year, we also recommend that each unit bring enough canopy to prepare and eat meals under in case if inclement weather.
- Each participant will need at least 2 face coverings. We will also have some for sale in our Trading Post.
- We recommend each Troop bring a wagon or other item to help haul food back to their sites.
- Cooking gear to cook meals.
- Each participant will need their own Mess Kit with Plate, Bowl, Cup, Spoon, Knife, and Fork.
- Stoves and Propane to prepare meals. We would suggest bringing a patrol box so that you have all the cooking utensils you are used to using on your monthly Unit outings. Charcoal will be provided.
- A minimum of 3 dish pans to clean and sanitize dishes.
- If a camper would like to climb or ride the new zip line, they will need to provide their own leather palm gloves.
WHAT NOT TO BRING TO CAMP

- Do NOT bring any cleaning chemicals. Camp will provide all sanitizing chemicals as well as chemical such as dish soap and sanitizer for cleaning up after the meal.
- Bikes will NOT be allowed in Camp this summer. We hope to allow bikes in the coming season.

VISITORS

- Sadly, we will not be able to have our annual Family Night up at camp. We look forward to bringing it back in 2021.
- Visitors, without an expressed purpose, will not be allowed in Camp.
- Visitors that have expressed reason, will report to the Deere Center to complete a prescreen and temperature check. Masks will be required by the visitor when interacting with people in camp.
- Delivery drivers will need to stop at the Deer Center for a screen and temperature check.

AFTER CAMP

- After spending time in camp it is important to continue to monitor each participant. Camp will reach out to each unit to complete a short survey to see how each participant is doing.

These precautions are important, but they 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.

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