

Getting Scouts back into the great outdoors.

**Guidance for reopening our
campsites and activities centres to
Scouts**

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Welcome

This guidance will help you make sure your buildings and facilities are safe when returning to face-to-face meetings and activities. If in doubt about any aspect, please seek the advice of a professional. More Scout guidance is available [here](#).

This guidance should read in conjunction with The Scouts' Framework, which explains the overall process.

Background

Face-to-face Scouting can resume when the risk level on the National Youth Agency (NYA) scale is Amber, Yellow or Green. Given the risk of infection is greatly reduced when outside and that some sections may not be able to use their normal meeting place, Scout campsites and Activity Centres could be valuable resources that enable face-to-face Scouting to restart safely.

There may also be other opportunities to open up spaces for third party and public use as restrictions ease across other areas. Guidance for this can be found [here](#)

In either of the above scenarios there will be a need to carefully plan and risk assess how reopening your site will work, what services/activities you can and can't deliver and how you will communicate this to those visiting the site.

Things to consider

When planning for reopening for Scout use you will need to consider and balance the following factors as we pass through each level of the NYA scale;

- **Can you reopen safely?**
 - What's the capacity of your site (physical space, toilet provision, hand washing facilities) when operating within the restrictions at each level?
 - Can the roads and car parks cope with the potential increase in traffic?
- **Can you keep volunteers and staff involved in the running of the centre safe?**
 - What you are able to offer at each level of the scale?
 - Which activities can you run in line with the restrictions at each level or are you just offering space? Check the [programme advice](#) for more information.
- **Can you provide enough qualified people to run them if required?**
 - Can you operate adventurous activity in line with the relevant internal and external advice? See both the programme advice and where applicable check the relevant National Governing body guidance.
 - Benefit to young people?
- **Given the potential for increased demand on our outdoor spaces how do we ensure fair access to groups?**
 - PR benefit of being open?
 - This is an opportunity to engage/re-engage with local groups and districts
- **How would someone external seeing the activity happening perceive this considering the guidance currently in force?**
 - Financial implications of opening vs staying closed at each level?
- **Under the track and trace guidance you have a duty to keep at least the contact details for the party leader of each visiting group for 21 days but also a responsibility to keep a log of who was working when and what time including any significant contact they had with any groups or individuals**
- **Running Adventurous Activities**

With all activities you should not plan to break social distancing requirements in the normal operation of the activity. In an emergency situation (such as giving first aid or performing a rescue) of course you will need to break the social distancing requirements. Consideration should be given on how to keep everyone as safe as possible whilst balancing the need to respond to the situation. This does mean that for some activities you will need to wait until restrictions ease, and for others limit the participation and the way of delivering the session to ensure that social distancing is adhered to. Key considerations:

- In planning on how to deliver the activity can the instructor and all participant always comply with the current social distancing requirements?
- Is the need to rescue a likely occurrence – if yes then you will need to wait until restrictions ease?
- When planning the activity consider where, under normal circumstances, the instructor would be within 2 metres. Can this be avoided by changing the process, restricting the age or height of participants, limiting participation to those with previous experience, etc?
- What will the quality of the activity be for the participant where there might be limitations on ability to coach or progress due to changes in the way you'd deliver the activity?

It's not possible to provide a definitive list of which activities would be suitable for running under the current conditions since so much depends on the location, the equipment available, the available supervision level and the experience of the participants. Where activities have a national governing body, their websites are often full of useful ideas for tailoring the activity in the current circumstances.

Risks and mitigating actions

Level	Permitted activity	Key risks	Key control measures	Who is responsible for making sure this happens ?
Red	No face-to-face Scouting activity allowed. Scouting can be virtual (online/video/phone). Scouting at home/with family e.g. using The Great Indoors resources	Premises must be kept safe and secure and those involved in the management of this must be safe in the work they undertake	Clear management plan and oversight of those undertaking these tasks. Working in socially distanced pairs where tasks are more risky	Executive Committee are responsible for the safe management of the premises, volunteers and staff
Amber	Where permitted by, and following, government guidance Scouting activities in both outdoor and indoor (England only) spaces in small groups can resume. No residential activities	Spread of infection through poor social distancing, poor hygiene practices or facilities not 'COVID-secure'	Ensure COVID-secure guidance is followed Note that preference remains to operate only outdoors Clear communication and co-ordination between site and visiting groups	Executive Committee are responsible for the safe management of the premises, volunteers and staff Section Leaders and GSLs are responsible to ensuring groups programme is in line with the relevant guidance

Yellow	Face-to-face socially distant activities within size limits, indoors and outdoors plus camping within guidelines in England only	Spread of infection through poor social distancing, poor hygiene practices or facilities not 'COVID secure'. Potential spread of infection whilst camping in England only	Ensure COVID secure guidance is followed Clear communication and coordination between site and visiting groups Detailed guidance on camping and associated activity are in development	The Executive Committee is responsible for the safe management of the premises, volunteers and staff. Section Leaders and GSLs are responsible to ensuring groups programme is in line with the relevant guidance
Green	Full range of programme can be delivered including nights away	Level could drop yellow or lower at short notice leading to cancellations and changes to programme Cash flow problems stemming from depleted reserves in the situation of having to issue refunds on fees / further loss of income	Retain COVID-secure resources for quick redeployment Maintain enhanced hygiene standards Carefully manage finances to rebuild reserves and ensure good cash flow	The Executive Committee is responsible for the safe management of the premises, volunteers and staff. Section Leaders and GSLs are responsible to ensuring groups programme is in line with the relevant guidance

Checklists

A checklist can be found [here](#). This a great guide for what to think about before starting to use any premises again

Useful External Links

This page from the Institute of Outdoor Learning has links to most of the relevant guidance for outdoor centres <https://www.outdoor-learning.org/Covid-19>

Opening public campsite guidance can be found [here](#)