

FAQ for Scouting Units regarding Camping and MTC Owned Camp Properties

At this time, there is no unit camping until we reach the green phase of the reopening of Pennsylvania or Stage 3 in New Jersey.

Q: How do I know, as a Unit Leader what are the BSA guidelines and policies on Outdoor Programs?

A: All units must follow the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#).

Q: What is the BSA's policy on social distancing in a tenting environment when camping?

A: Camping should only take place following the guidelines from the States Department of Health and or Center for Disease Control. There is no formal national policy on social distancing in tents. The Minsi Trails Council strongly recommends following the CDC guidelines as it relates to camping. There is no prohibition on tenting alone if logistics can accommodate that request. As always, all BSA youth protection policies and the Guide to Safe Scouting must be followed.

Q: Can a troop or crew unit reserve a short-term campsite at either Camp Minsi or Trexler Scout Reservation?

A: The Minsi Trails Council will establish an opportunity for units to reserve a short-term campsite at either Camp Minsi or Settlers Camp. Akelaland Camp will be closed for rentals during this time. The reservation opportunity will open in June for available weekend dates (arrival Friday – Departure Sunday) in July and August. Camp sites will be limited to a certain few and available on a first come first serve basis through the Minsi Trails Council reservation system.

- Only available to Minsi Trails Council Chartered Units.
- Short Term Camping is found under the Camping tab at Minsitrails.org
- Each rental must be a paid before arrival
- Restricted areas will be established.

Q: The above language indicates reserve, what does that mean?

A: Through the online rental facility system, a unit will be able to reserve a site for a weekend in July and August. Recognizing this in only a temporary reservation. Ability to physically act upon the temporary reservation will be if the Unit Charter address (County) and Minsi Trails Council Properties (County) meet the Green Phase. Once onsite access is permitted in the Green Phase, Minsi Trails Council will confirm with the registration owner they are cleared to go.

- To be cleared to go:
 - For Pennsylvania units: Both the Unit Charter address (County) needs to be Green and MTC Camp properties (County) needs to be Green.
 - For New Jersey units: Both the Unit Charter address needs to be in Stage 3 and the MTC Camp properties (County) needs to be Green.

Q: What types of facilities will be available during the July and August rental period?

A: In support of PA Guidelines for the Green Phase. Only MTC pre-determined campsites; with latrines and access to running water will be available. Camp sites do not have electricity. The overall grounds are available for Hiking, Fishing, and Patrol/Unit activities.

Q: Will equipment or supporting facilities will be available for use?

A: No. All summer camp program equipment, watercraft, shooting sports ranges will not be available for use. Units are not permitted to bring watercraft onto property at any time. Rental of the 8 Canoe Pack or 10 Canoe Pack through the Camp Minsi rental system will be available during this time. Rental use of the Canoe Packs requires Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat are met by the unit.

Q: Will we be able to use the swimming areas at camp?

A: Swimming is prohibited due to crowd control of social distancing measures.

Q: Will buildings and cabins (indoor quarters), Shower Houses, Dining Halls or Kitchens available.

A: No. Due to various COVID-19 protocols, these facilities will not be available. Dining Halls or other assigned structures will be made available in emergency situations only.

Q: Is a unit allowed to reserve a Monday thru Friday morning long-term campsite reservation in July and August?

A: No. Minsi Trails Council Properties will be closed to unit rentals Monday through Thursday.

Q: Will the Canvas walled tents be on the frames and platforms in the camp sites?

A: No, units will need to bring their own tents and equipment.

Q: Will refrigeration be available?

A: No, Kitchens are closed due to COVID-19 and are in the process of maintenance.

Q: Are Campmasters needed for the Summer?

A: Yes, please reach out to diane.lariar@scouting.org

Q: Is a unit allowed to go for a day trip on one of the camp properties?

A: No. Only during a Council established activity or events.

Q: Can I or my unit or service group or OA Lodge/Chapter go to camp to provide daily service or maintenance during the Monroe County phases?

A: Yes, only in the Green Phase with pre-approval and coordination from the Camp Rangers for Camp Minsi or Trexler Scout Reservation.

Q: Will there be any programs, run by staff during the summer months of camping?

A: No. However, if the phases permit Council run activities are possible. As an example, Cub Scout Saturday Fishing or Hiking – pre-registration required. These activities would be simply providing access to the property to do the activity vs a coordinated program.

Q: What if I have other questions that have not been addressed here?

Camping or Camp Properties

- Contact the camping department at Diane.Lariar@scouting.org

Unit Meetings or Charter Org Relationships

Pocono District

Greg Borowski - District Executive (610) 465-8557 | Gregory.borowski@scouting.org

Forks of the Delaware District

Michael LaPolla - District Director (610) 465-8560 | michael.lapolla@scouting.org

Tim Hands - Quality Unit Executive (610) 465-8564 | timothy.hands@scouting.org

South Mountain District

Arby Beisel - Sr. District Executive (610) 465-8558 | russell.beisel@scouting.org

Trexler District

Paul Oswald - Director of Field Service / COO (610) 465-8576 | paul.oswald@scouting.org

North Valley District

Christian Averill - District Director (610) 465-8573 | Christian.Averill@scouting.org

Mike Borgman - Quality Unit Executive (610) 465-8575 | mike.borgman@scouting.org

Anthracite District

Edward Schaefer - District Executive (610) 465-8571 | edward.schaefer@scouting.org