



NCAP Circular No. 14

NCAP elevates camps to new levels of excellence...

National Council, Boy Scouts of America

May 4, 2020

NCAP During COVID-19 Pandemic

The current COVID-19 pandemic is almost unprecedented in the history of Scouting, with perhaps only the 1918-1919 flu pandemic surpassing it in the history of the Movement. This has raised many questions about how BSA camping, National Camping School, and NCAP will respond. The purpose of this Circular is to provide guidance as of May 1, 2020.

National Camping School

As of May 1, 2020, all Resident Camping Schools starting **before May 29, 2020** are CANCELLED.

The May 30, 2020 Summit school, the June schools at Fire Mountain, Ten Mile River and Massawepie and the September Philmont school are still scheduled to operate. Decisions on whether to cancel these schools will be made approximately 30 days prior to the school.

National Camping School is offering the following options for those affected by this change:

Option 1. Transfer to another National Camping School after May 29th. You can check the list of courses at www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/national-camping-school. You can change your registration by emailing NCS@scouting.org with the subject line "registration location change." Please include your full name (as registered), the school and section that you are currently registered to attend as well as the school and section to which you would like to be moved.

Option 2. Utilize an alterna-

tive training option indicated in the National Camp Standards. Many of the National Camp Standards provide for alternative criteria. These criteria are spelled out in Standards SQ-406 (for aquatics), SQ-407 (for shooting sports), SQ-409 (for COPE and climbing), and SQ-412 (many other area lead positions). Additional guidance on using these alternatives appears at

<https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/national-camping-school/national-camping-school-covid-19-update/>

Option 3. Make an NCS certification extension request. In appropriate circumstances, National Camping School will extend an expiring credential for another year. The form to use to request such an extension is found at

www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/national-camping-school/national-camping-school-covid-19-update/

about two-thirds of the way down the page. You will need to report on your experience and use of your NCS credentials and other relevant credentials as part of the extension request. The application must be co-signed by your Scout Executive or designee.

Option 4. For long-term camp

managers (reservation, base and camp directors; program directors), take the on-line course.

Because there are no preset alternatives for camp directors and program directors, National Camping School has rolled out on-line training for these two positions. The on-line training is a 3-day online course lasting 8-10 hours a day. School starts at 8:30 am each Saturday-Monday (based on time zones in registration). Course will be live and interactive with an NCS staff member. The certification will be valid through December 31, 2020. The cost is \$190 billed to your council. Registration link is at <https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/national-camping-school/> No waiver is required if this option is selected. Attendance at all sessions is required. **Prerequisites:**

(1) Complete online training module found at www.courses.leaderosity.org/boy-scouts-of-america using registration code NCS12020; and

(2) Complete Unlawful Harassment training at <https://www.skillssoftcompliance.com/Academy/Commonui/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2facademy%2fdefault.aspx%3fgid%3d551502&orgid=551502>

Option 5. For Day Camp Administration, individuals seeking certification must register

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online at <https://reservations.scouting.org/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x124052abcd>. If you have already registered, you should have been automatically transferred and received a training kit. If you didn't, please notify NCS@scouting.org with the details and they will work with you to sort out any issues. Fees for the on-line course are \$120 per person. The certification will expire on December 31, 2020. If individuals with the 2020 online certification take part in traditional NCS in 2021, they will receive a 5-year certification at that time. You may also transfer to the Camp Alpine course in New Jersey on June 6-7, 2020, and receive the traditional 5 year card.

The online training starts with getting your registration confirmation. It will contain a link to the course "Foundations of Cub Scout Day Camp." Take the class. Upon completion, contact your local council to make arrangements to take part in the council-led portion of the curriculum. After you register and are approved, you will receive your NCS kit materials in the mail. Once you have

the kit, email NCS@Scouting.org and the final training link will be sent. You will need to verify that you have completed BSA youth protection training, Cub Scout Leader Specific Training (any type is acceptable), the NCS Part 1 video (Foundations), the NCS Part 2 at your local council and the NCS Part 3 (video of condensed NCS). After completion, submit your signed verification form to NCS@scouting.org and you will be emailed your NCS card.

Option 6. Waivers. If none of the prior options work for a camp's or individual's specific situation, then the camp may seek a waiver. The waiver form is available at www.scouting.org/NCAP. Please note that if your camp is seeking a waiver for a staff qualification standard (SQ-4XX), you will need to explain how you have tried to satisfy the five preceding options first, the best efforts that you have used, and why the proposed candidate meets the program quality and safety goals of the National Camp Standards. Waivers have been "on hold" pending release of this NCAP Circular, but should start to be issued shortly after release.

Updated guidance can be found at the following URLs and all BSA camping professionals and volunteers are encouraged to check them frequently during this period of uncertainty:

NCAP

www.scouting.org/NCAP

National Camping School

www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/national-camping-school/national-camping-school-covid-19-update/

National Council Announces Change in Age-Related Waivers Policy

In April 2020, National Council management, after considering advice and recommendations of the legal, health and safety and risk management teams, notified NCAP of a change in National policy on age-related waivers from the BSA National Camp Standards. Effective immediately, no waivers from the minimum age requirement will be granted for any of the following positions:

- Camp director
- Program director
- Professional staff advisor/volunteer day camp administrator
- Family camp administrator
- Ranger
- Aquatics director
- Shooting shorts director
- Firearms range supervisor
- COPE/climbing director or level II instructor
- Portable climbing tower structure facilitator
- COPE/climbing program trainer
- COPE/climbing peer reviewer
- Trek director
- High adventure program director
- Chaplains
- Horse/Stock program director
- ATV program lead
- Chain saw operators
- Tot lot supervisors
- Group outpost leader (if supplied by camp)

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Age Waivers

- Trek program crew leader (if supplied by camp)
- Provisional camping program leaders

For purposes of applying this policy, a staff member must meet the relevant minimum age requirement on or before the first day of staff week. Councils may still send individuals 18 years of age or older for NCS training, but they cannot hold the age-restricted position.

2021 Standards Update

NCAP plans to release NCAP Circular 15 in June 2020. NCAP Circular No. 15 will include changes for the 2021 and thereafter calendar years. As stated in the current issue of the National Camp Standards Manual, starting 2021 “short-term camps” are being rolled into the NCAP program as part of an effort to further reduce incidents and liabilities and to improve program quality.

In addition, if any council has comments on existing standards or thoughts on short-term camp standards that they would like to have considered in the development of the 2021 standards, please send those comments to NCAP@scouting.org with a copy to Eric Hiser, National Standards Chair, at ehiser.BSA@gmail.com. Please send as soon as possible.