

COVID-19 and BSA Camps/Events Decision Guide

As always, the safety of our Scouts, volunteers, employees and communities is our top priority. Our response to the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be informed by expertise from agencies, including the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

The Boy Scouts of America is advising local councils to consult with their local and state health departments, as well as local chartered partners, in order to implement the appropriate protocols to help keep our members, volunteers, and employees safe.

The decision to host all types of programs and events is a local council operational decision. This information is provided as a **guide** to assist local council leadership. Council leadership must work in conjunction with local health officials to meet current, regulatory requirements.

This discussion guide is a resource that should be shared with and utilized by appropriate staff and volunteers who are planning camps and events during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The questions represented herein do not constitute an exhaustive list and are a minimum standard when considering conducting a camp/event. For additional resources, visit [BSA Outdoor Programs](#) or the [National BSA COVID-19 webpage](#).

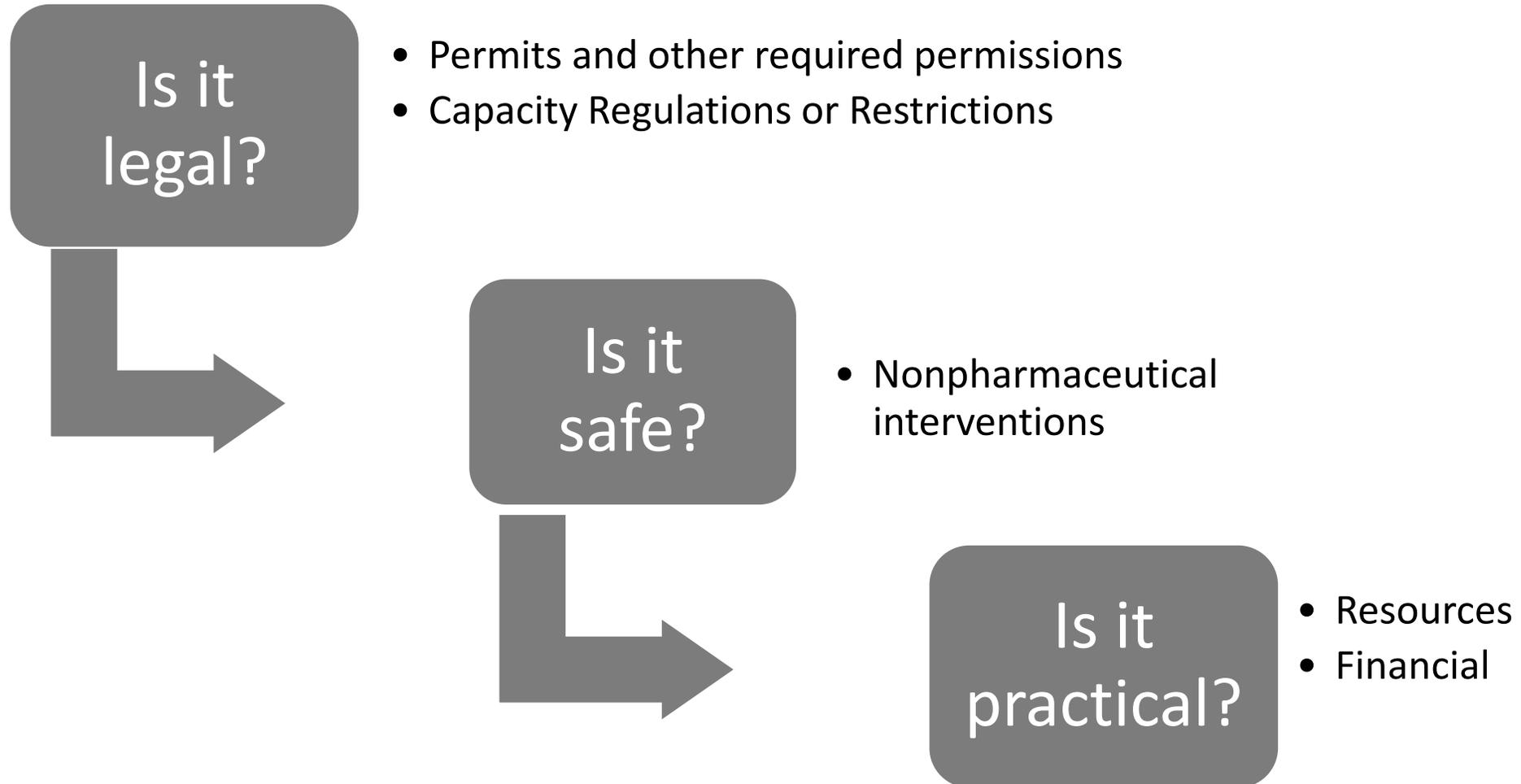
COVID-19 and BSA Camps/Events Decision Guide



Camp/Events & COVID-19 Decision Process



Because the safety of our youth members, volunteers, and employees is always BSA's top priority, all camping program(s) or council/district organized event(s) must be evaluated in advance to determine their feasibility in a COVID-19 environment. A metered approach to this risk analysis is found in these three questions:

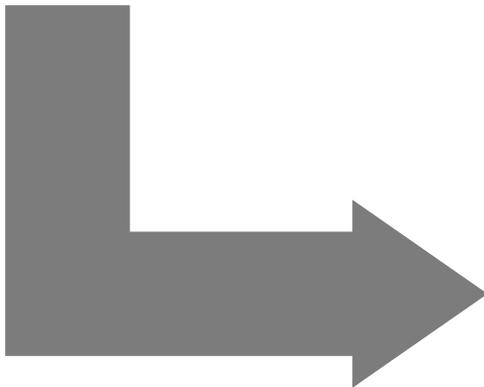


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Is it legal?

- Review current state and executive orders and/or regulations. *Note regulations change frequently and must be monitored continuously during the planning process.*
- Review local Health Department regulations. These regulations could include limitations on gathering sizes, interactions beyond individual households, indoor versus outdoor events, etc. *Note regulations change frequently and must be monitored continuously during the planning process.*
- Are there additional actions or restrictions that your local health department will require at the camp/event location and can you meet them?
- Do you have all necessary federal, state, and local permits, certificates, licenses, and agreements to lawfully hold this event? For resources on permits and licenses, see [NCAP standard AO-801](#).



After a discussion about the points above, ask the Question “Can we legally hold this camp or event?”

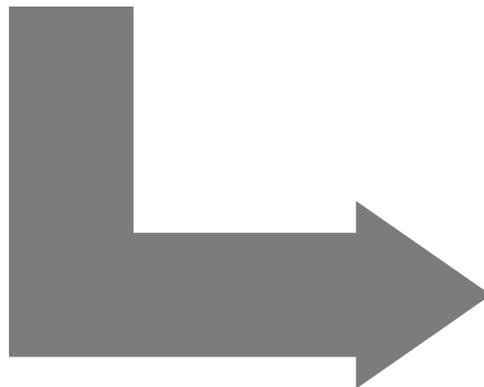
- If No – do not hold the camp/event and inform stakeholders.
- If Yes – move on to question #2.

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Is it safe?

- Have you reviewed current [CDC guidelines](#)?
- Have you engaged your Council Health Supervisor?
- Have you engaged your Enterprise Risk Management committee?
- Have you reviewed your current council communicable disease plan?
- What safety measures must be in place to meet current state and executive orders and/or regulations?
- What safety measures must be in place to meet local Health Department regulation? These required safety measures could include limitations on gathering sizes, interactions beyond individual households, indoor versus outdoor events, physical distancing, facial coverings and any other nonpharmaceutical interventions.
- What is your pre-screening process? Can it be safely implemented for this camp/event? Does it include all on-site participants, including visitors? The BSA's model pre-event medical screening COVID-19 checklist can be found [here](#).
- Do you have the required PPE on hand to meet any regulations to operate the camp/event safely?
- Do you have the necessary supplies to follow required cleaning and disinfection protocols?



After a discussion about the points above, ask the Question “Can we safely hold this camp or event?”

- If No – do not hold the camp/event and inform stakeholders.
- If Yes – move on to question #3.

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Is it practical?

- Can you meet current CDC guidance, required state and local health department regulations for this specific camp/event?
- Can you practically follow your council communicable disease/COVID-19 mitigation plan at this camp/event? For example the pre-screening effectiveness, cohort model(s), sanitation plan and more.
- Can you meet appropriate NCAP standards (if required), BSA program materials and Guide to Safe Scouting?
- Does your pre-camp/event communication ensure that all participants are prepared to help mitigate COVID-19 exposures at the camp/event? Are you utilizing the BSA model COVID-19 Participant Statement?
- Can the camp/event be held in a fiscally responsible way?
- Can you meet staffing (staff, volunteers and other support) requirements when considering necessary certifications, group numbers and sizes, cohorts, cleaning and disinfecting and any other staffing needs?
- Do you have the equipment to meet the program needs and manage required cleaning and disinfecting? For information on cleaning and disinfecting program equipment [click here](#).
- In the event of a possible COVID-19 exposure, will you be able to effectively contact trace and follow other required incident reporting mandates?



After a discussion about the points above, ask the Question “Is it practical to hold this event?” Then ask, are there any other specific camp/event or council considerations?

- If No – do not hold the camp/event and inform stakeholders.
- If Yes – move forward with camp/event planning.

What's Next?

- Share this guide with the decision makers for your camp/event and discuss the points presented herein.
- “Be Prepared” to modify your plan to meet the legal, safe and practical applications for your camp/event.
- Communicate your decisions. Necessary notifications could include key stakeholders, local regulatory officials, and others as appropriate.
- Schedule consistent communication to your stakeholders, including your decision-making timeline.
- If there is an incident or exposure at the camp/event, report appropriately through the BSA incident reporting website following the COVID-19 reporting protocols.
- Promote the value and critical need to continue Scouting’s outdoor adventures!



If you have further questions,
please contact

outdoorprograms@scouting.org or
health.safety@scouting.org.

For additional resources:

- For additional outdoor program or property resources, visit [BSA Outdoor Programs](#).
- BSA’s COVID-19 [resource page](#)
- [BSA Program Hazard Analysis Materials](#)
- BSA Incident Reporting COVID-19 [resource page](#)
- [National Camping School Information](#)
- [National Camp Accreditation Program \(NCAP\) Standards](#)
- [American Camp Association COVID-19 Field Guide](#)
- [American Camp Association COVID-19 Resources](#)



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