



Camping and Residential Experiences

Scotland

May 2021

Camping and Residential activities are at the heart of what we do as Scouts, and we know that this level of activity has been the most impacted over the past year.

The Scottish Government has now provided a route plan for the recommencement of these activities with effect from 31 May 2021. **Please remember these arrangements can change at short notice and may mean that an event has to be cancelled or postponed.** This needs to be considered in regard to loss of deposits and communicated to parents.

Before any planning starts it is essential that you read through the guidance relating to [planning COVID safe nights away](#). In particular, note the different procedures for the approval of COVID risk assessments in relation to Nights Away experiences. **Use the UK guidance for Nights Away alongside this factsheet, in respect to the rules in Scotland.**

All adult members who are involved in any Nights Away experience must have all their safety and safeguarding mandatory training up to date and all adults must have a current PVG.

What can we do in Scotland?

From 31 May 2021

Scout Camping counts as residential activity under Scottish Government guidance and must adhere to national guidance on residentials for youth work.

	Yellow Readiness Level		Amber	Red
Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Under 18 years				
30 maximum (including adults) Single person tents/rooms	30 maximum (including adults) Single person tents/rooms	30 maximum (including adults) Single person tents/rooms	No residential	No residential
18 years and over				
15 maximum Single person tents/rooms	15 maximum Single person tents/rooms	15 maximum Single person tents/rooms	No residential	No residential

(Please note that in Scotland tent/room sharing is not permitted at this time)

Beaver and Cub Sections

Leaders must comply with ratios as detailed in POR at all times and this must be taken into account within the permitted numbers.

The permission to resume camping and residential experiences applies across the youth work sector however, due to the single occupancy requirement of the Scottish Government, leaders would have to consider the safeguarding implications of younger children camping outdoors and mitigate appropriately. Parents also need to understand the single occupancy requirement and be content with the arrangement.

Multiple Groups

It is possible for more than one group (**in line with the table above**) to camp on the same site. **However**, these groups must be totally self-sufficient, be at least 25 meters apart at all times and can have zero interaction with each other. This includes volunteer leadership (including support/cook teams), marquees, meals, toilets, washing facilities, programme activities (onsite and offsite) and transport. Please be very clear that this must be explicitly set out in the risk assessment that must in turn be approved through the Nights Away process. **If you can't commit to these measures, then you must not progress with more than one group of people as stated above.**

Toilets and Washing Facilities

Washing and toilet facilities must be reserved for single person use at any one time. It is good practice for all participants to carry, and keep ready to use, alcohol-based hand sanitiser. This should be used throughout the day, whenever surfaces are touched prior to and after eating and using the toilet. Plenty of hand soap and water should be available at campsites.

Face Coverings and Physical Distance

It is important that current guidance on face coverings (indoors) and social distancing is followed at all times and that this is managed appropriately by young people, peer leaders and adults.

Travel Restrictions

Travel is only permitted when the virus prevalence is equivalent to new COVID-19 protection levels 0, 1 and 2 at both the originating authority and the destination. Please remember this can change and may mean that an event has to be cancelled at short notice.

Journeys must not involve travel out of or into a Level 3 area (* groups may travel through areas subject to higher protection levels but should make every effort not to stop in a higher-level area).

Travel Considerations

On dedicated transport, face coverings should be worn by anyone aged 5 years and over (unless exemptions apply).

Maintaining distance between young people on dedicated transport is not necessary, but any adults travelling by dedicated transport should conform with the requirements for public transport (1 metre distancing with appropriate mitigation measures in place and the wearing of face coverings)

An effective enhanced cleaning regime should be in place. This includes cleaning of frequently touched surfaces after each journey.

Measures to protect drivers and leaders who are accompanying young people on dedicated transport should be informed by a risk assessment before any transport is considered. This may include leaving seats behind/beside the driver empty or fitting a physical barrier or screen.

As stated above, dedicated transport can only be used for one group of as detailed in the table above.

Lateral Flow Checks

Whilst not compulsory, The Scouts strongly recommend asking members aged 12 and above to undertake lateral flow tests, in relation to nights away. This will provide confidence to members, parents and volunteers before and during camps and residential experiences. Further detail can be found [here](#).

Your risk assessment and parental consent process should make clear that parents are responsible for coming to collect their child promptly, should they develop Covid symptoms and/or return a positive test result. They should also be aware that the camp could be cut short if an adult tests positive.

Large Events

A large-scale event made up of multiple groups, as defined by [POR rule 9.6](#), where 100 or more people are present **may not** take place at the current time.

Our focus during 2021 is to support local sections and groups to meet together, to re-establish contact with as many members and new members as possible, to welcome new

leaders and adult volunteers and to ensure that young people have a great and challenging programme; and leaders complete all their outstanding training and compliance obligations.

Whilst large scale events may offer great programme opportunities, we should recognise that bringing together large numbers of people increases the risk of infection and the spread of the virus and therefore **should not** form part of any planning before the autumn/winter term of 2021.

Family Camps

Similarly, Family Camps are not permitted at the current time, as they include large numbers of adults and, with that, increase the risk of infection.

Expedition Advice

Light weight camping as part of a journey or expedition is an integral part of Scouting and forms part of our badge work scheme and top awards. Expedition camping presents a few areas that must be considered within risk assessment in relation to COVID-19.

Group size should be selected to make the group and mitigation steps manageable. Smaller expedition groups would be preferable to make the process of running expeditions easier. Expeditions must follow the Scout rules in regard to group sizes. Camping arrangements must not exceed those detailed in the table above.

To avoid weight becoming prohibitive, with the need to provide more or larger tents, additional tents may be taken to the camp by vehicle, and expeditions should be planned with this in mind.

Young people should not be expected to carry more weight than normal or reasonably practical or safe.

It is acceptable for participants to work together to put up tents, but they must do so with care for maximising the distance between them and use hand sanitiser after touching another participant's equipment.

Participants do not need to wear face coverings whilst outdoors and cooking, but they should be mindful to limit touching, wash hands, use alcohol-based hand sanitising gel etc (taking care not to be near naked flames).

Participants (and staff) should use separate plates, mugs, and cutlery.

To avoid weight becoming prohibitive, additional stoves and gas may be taken to the camp by vehicle, and expeditions should be planned with this in mind.

Venue Risk Assessments

Leaders planning camps and residential experiences should satisfy themselves that venue COVID protocols are in place to ensure the safety of their members. On request, venues should provide a copy of their COVID risk assessment to groups. District Commissioners may also ask to see these prior to approval.

Graeme Luke

Head of Scouting Operations/ Deputy Chief Executive