



September 4, 2020

Dear Scouts and Scouters,

I hope that all members of the Tay House Family are staying happy and healthy during these difficult times. We are excited to be beginning another scouting year. I was very proud of the hard work put in by all of our scouts to remain connected as a community while we met virtually. I am happy to announce that we will be returning to in person meetings at the cabin starting on September 14th. Both our youth and adult leaders have been hard at work preparing both our programs for this fall, as well as the new policies and procedures that will be in place to keep all of us safe. These policies are summarized in an enclosed document, and our full reopening plan can be found on our website. Here are the highlights: we will be maintaining 6ft distancing and wearing masks at all times (further distancing during mealtimes), we will be requiring scouts to fill out a health screener and waiver before each meeting or campout, and we will be moving nearly all of our activities outside.

Now more than ever, it is important that we keep communication open and clear, so we can get information out as efficiently and accurately as possible. Our main line between the troop and your family is on Monday night meetings during announcements. This is followed by your home receiving a call from your son's Patrol Leader each week, weekly newsletter emails in your inbox, and lastly by mailings (you should receive this letter in both hard copy and digital formats). We also strongly encourage all parents to participate in **Troop Committee Meetings** on the **second Monday** of each month. Troop Committee meetings are a great way to get answers to your questions about the Troop, as well as helping out with the many projects that the Staff cannot address on a week-to-week basis. Jerry Hawk and Dave Kotalik are taking over as our Parent Committee Co-Chairmen this fall, and they have a variety of projects in need of parent assistance.

Drop-offs for meetings and campouts will look very different this year. Scouts will be required to complete a self health screening under the supervision of their parent/guardian, and then parents will need to sign this form which outlines our participant requirements. For us to keep the required records, we will need these forms to be completed for each Monday night meeting, and on the first day of any campout. No exceptions. We will have a staff member in the parking lot during dropoff time to collect the forms, and we will keep a healthy supply of extras on hand. We appreciate your understanding with these new additional requirements.

This Scouting year, all returning scouts will owe dues of \$120 payable to Tay House Troop 19 by the end of September. Enclosed you will find a "Form for Scout Money Transactions," to be completed and turned in ANY time a check or payment is brought to the cabin. This form is also available at our website.

We will continue to utilize the BSA web based software tool Scoutbook this year. We found this tool to be invaluable during our lockdown period, and will continue to leverage this software to track advancement and to tailor our program activities to help our scouts meet their advancement goals. If you have not yet, please take the time to make an account on the website <https://www.scoutbook.com/>. Get your son's scoutbook profile up to date with what he has completed and he will be all the closer to his next rank.

Please review the enclosed calendar and be sure to mark Scouting events on the family calendar as well. Here are a few important dates for the start of this year:

- September 14, 7:30-9:00pm – First Meeting of the year!
- October 2-4 – Campout -October 17 – Court of Honor -October 23-25 - Campout

Again, I am very excited for us to get back to in person Scouting this fall, and hope the scouts are as well. Please feel free to reach out to me with questions or concerns. My e-mail is tayhousescoutmaster@gmail.com, and my cell is 585-208-0250. We look forward to seeing you on September 14th!

Yours in Scouting,
Timothy Castelein
Scoutmaster

Tay House Reopening Summary

Below is a summary of the policies and procedures that will be in place to keep our scouts, the staff and all of our families, safe during our meetings and activities this fall. A full copy of our re-opening safety plan can be found at the Tay House Website. The word participants used below refers to all scouts, scoutmasters and adults at a troop function. These guidelines have been developed based on current NYS regulations, by staff members who work professionally in the field of health and safety, in conjunction with the parent committee.

We will resume in-person meetings on 9/14/2020. In person meetings will be moved to virtual meetings if:

- Severe weather would limit outdoor meetings
- School closings due to COVID-19 cases
- If a scout who attended a campout the previous weekend develops COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive.

Basic Expectations

- All participants at all troop events will wear an approved face covering during the entire event.
 - Face masks with at least 3 layers will be required at all times during troop events. Masks should not be equipped with exhalation valves. No “buffs” or neck gaiters will be allowed. The troop will be providing approved disposable face coverings to anyone who needs one.
 - Exception: meal times on campouts (9' spacing required) or in personal tent/hammock..
- Participants will maintain 6ft distancing between others.

Waiver & Health Screening

- All participants will be required to complete a self health screening and complete the participant requirement waiver for each meeting, and on the first day of any multi-day event. This must be completed the day of the meeting/campout and be signed by a parent or guardian. A non-contact thermometer will be used for a temperature screening when scouts are dropped off at an event. Anyone with a temperature above 100.4F will not be allowed to participate in the activities.
- This waiver is available on the troop website, and we will keep extra copies at each event.
- In the event that families decide to carpool, the parent/guardian of each scout will **still** be expected to sign the waiver document for each event. Scouts will not be able to participate without this signed document.
- On each subsequent day of a campout, the adult staff will perform daily health screenings of all participants, including temperature checks.

Meetings:

- Any scout who is unable to attend in person can join a patrol virtually by logging into the GoToMeeting room.
- We will keep an ample amount of hand sanitizer, face coverings and gloves on hand; and regular hand cleaning/sanitizing will be required.
- Opening & Closing Ceremonies will be held outdoors, along with most of the program activities.
- Program activities will be modified to reduce the amount of shared surfaces.
- A maximum of 25 people may be in the cabin at any given time
- Leaders meeting will take place in main room of the cabin in a circle with 6' distancing
- The Leaders room will be divided. Based on area and distancing requirements, the program side of the leaders room will be restricted to 3 individuals and the main area limited to 6 individuals.
- Patrol rooms will not be utilized, and storage rooms, kitchen, scoutmaster room & restrooms are limited to an occupancy of one person.
- If we are meeting outdoors and the temperature is below 50F, scouts will be allowed to wear green or khaki pants. No sweat pants, jeans, or camouflage pants will be allowed as part of the uniform.
- Visitors, including guardians, must have approval from the scoutmaster to interact with participants and/or to enter the cabin during a meeting

Campouts:

- Each patrol will be responsible for cooking one meal for the entire troop during the course of the weekend. This will enable staff to best supervise the prep and serving of meals to allow for distancing and sanitation.
- Scouts will sleep in personal tents/hammocks, or if scouts do not have a personal tent, they will be assigned one from the troop. Scouts not in the same household will not be allowed to share tents.
- Hammocks and Tents will be set up to enable 9' of distancing.

Fundraising & Courts of Honor

- Safety Plans for these events/activities are being developed and shared as we get closer to their occurring.