



October 19, 2020

Dear Scouting Family,

On October 14th, 2020 the Governor of New York issued Executive Order 202.69 extending the prohibition of Unit level camping state-wide through November 13, 2020.

Earlier in the year, on July 10<sup>th</sup> the State of New York issued broad rulings on camping programs that impact Scouting. At the time our county Health Departments let us know that the only camping activities permitted were Family Camping, where every youth had a Parent/Guardian accompanying them. Unit camping was specifically not allowed.

On Sept 21<sup>st</sup> the State of New York Health Department further confirmed their original guidance stating that Scout Units cannot camp as Units even within campgrounds, meaning the only overnight camping option is Family Camping for any scout unit anywhere in New York.

Children staying overnight for scouting functions must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Volunteers may not accept responsibility for the overnight supervision of a child other than their own.

Violation could result in civil penalties, fines, closure, and or denial of future permits for operations.

This guidance is issued from Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Executive Order 202, Executive Order 202.16, and 202.17. This order will expire on November 13, 2020 but is subject to extension or renewal and may or may not impact the guidance we are being given for operations.

This impacts events the Greater Niagara Frontier Council had planned for the fall that included an overnight experience such as the Order of the Arrow Fall Induction weekends and our Halloween Fun Day, as well as district Camporees. This also impacts Troops, Packs, and Crews planning any fall unit camping on or off GNFC properties, prior to November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Family camping must follow the guidance we issued in the following document: <http://www.wnyscouting.org/document/guidance-for-reopening-camps/200034> rules.

The Volunteer Risk Management Committee and staff continue to seek further direction from the State of New York Department of Health and the

local health department on how and when we can expand the camping opportunities for our Scouting families.

As the continuation of this order directly impacts your scouting programs, we encourage you to reach out to your state and county representative and request they reconsider this restriction of the Scouting programs requiring all parents to attend campouts. Additionally, we encourage you to reach out to the Western New York Regional Control Room members:

- **Regional Captain:** Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul - 518.402.2292
- Howard Zemsky, ESD Board Chair - 716.362.2662
- Richard Lipsitz, President, WNY Area Labor Federation – 716.852.0375
- Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz – 716.858.8500
- Niagara County Legislature Chair Becky Wydysch – 716.510.3678
- Chautauqua County Executive PJ Wendel – 716.763.0042
- Cattaraugus County Administrator Jack Searles – 716.938.2577
- Allegany County Administrator Carissa Knapp – 585.268.9217
- City of Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown – 716.851.4841
- City of Niagara Falls Mayor Robert Restaino - 716.286.4310
- City of Jamestown Mayor Eddie Sundquist - 716.483.7600

Our Volunteers and Staff will continue to monitor the guidance we receive from the state Health Department and will communicate it to our units and families. If you have additional questions please call Dick Hanaburgh at 716.512.6219.

Yours in Scouting,

Gary A Decker  
Scout Executive & CEO