



Communicate with Your Scout Unit During a Rapidly Evolving Crisis

By Chuck Blanchette, General Manager of NEBC

Keeping your Scouts informed during a crisis should be one of your top priorities as a leader. It's your responsibility to stay on top of events as they unfold — especially if they're evolving as fast as they are right now. At the same time, beware of hype. News outlets often focus on what's new rather than the big picture and they sometimes don't distinguish between hard facts, soft facts, and speculation. Think critically about the source of the information before acting on it. Of course, Scouts have direct access to many sources of information too — but don't assume they're fully informed. It's far better to create and widely share a regularly updated summary of facts and implications so you're all on the same page. And constantly reframe your understanding of what's happening. Don't hold off on disseminating plans just because they might change. Create a living document, with a time-stamped "best current view," and update it regularly, highlighting critical changes.

Remember, The Spirit of Adventure Council will be constantly updating our website to keep you and your Scouts' families informed of any council updates as well as general information that coincide with the times. Please feel free to check out our website:

<https://www.scoutspirit.org/coronavirus/>

Also remember to enforce and follow practical advice that has been shared already from local health departments and organizations such as the CDC:

- Practice social distancing
- Wash hands frequently and thoroughly
- If you have any symptoms, stay home
- No physical contact, stay 6 feet apart