

ZWIĄZEK HARCERSTWA POLSKIEGO, OKRĘG KANADA

Polish Scouting Association in Canada
L'Association des Scouts Polonais au Canada

3351 Charmaine Heights, Mississauga, Ontario L5A 3C2



August 25, 2020

BULLETIN NR. 6

Dear Druhny and Druhowie,

During this time of pandemic, the Polish Scouting Association in Canada (PSA) must maintain a position of safety leadership and social responsibility. Our priority continues to be ensuring the safety of our members and our participants, and to reduce the risk of disease transmission. Since March, 2020, in-person activities have been suspended and we have been operating only by electronic “virtual” methods. The Polish Scouting Association COVID-19 Response Management Team (RMT) which includes the Chief Commissioners of the Polish Girl Scouts Organization, the Polish Boy Scouts Organization, and the National Coordinators/ Heads of the Polish Senior Scouts Organization and the Polish Scouting Auxiliary, has decided that effective September 7, 2020, activities may move into the next phase of opening, as follows:

Phase 2 overview (see **Standards for In-person Activities Phase 2** document below)

- Virtual meetings and outdoor activities only – no indoor gatherings are permitted
- Number of participants attending an in-person activity is limited:
 - 16 skrzaty or zuchy, not including leaders and supervisors
 - 24 harcerki, harcerze, wędrowniczki or wędrownicy, not including leaders and supervisors
 - 24 adults (senior scouts, auxiliary members, or instructors) meeting or gathering without youth
- Participants at in-person gatherings to be grouped in cohorts (szóstki, zastępy, patrole) of no more than 8 children/youth each, in order to minimize the number of participants and leaders each individual comes in contact with and limit the scope of sharing of equipment and materials.
- Activities to be modified to ensure physical distancing of at least 2 meters between individuals.
- No camping or overnight activities will be permitted
- Standards for in-person meetings (attached) must be followed

Phase 2 will be in effect until further notice. RMT does not expect loosening any restrictions prior to Thanksgiving weekend.

We encourage participants and youth to come back to in-person activities and meetings, only when they and their parents feel comfortable doing so. In preparation for the return to activities, PSA wants to assure all members, participants and parents that activities will be fun and engaging, while adhering to the Standards which have been developed to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

We recognize and applaud the dedication demonstrated over the past several months by leaders at all levels to carry on programs and activities virtually during the pandemic. Your creativity and resourcefulness are the mark of true scouts! We are confident that together we will continue to provide a safe program with many activities that will enable our participants to stay active and engaged during these unprecedented times.

Czuwaj!

Polish Scouting Association in Canada
COVID-19 Response Management Team

Polish Scouting Association in Canada
Standards for In-Person Activities
Phase 2

District (hufcowi) and local (szczepowi) commissioners continue to be responsible for determining the timing, location, participation, group size and other circumstances for resumption of in-person activities, within the parameters set out in the Phase overview and these standards. The limits on group size must be observed at all times and cannot be exceeded. Outdoor activities are deemed to constitute “day trips” within the meaning of the PSA policy on approved scouting activities and the supervisory ratios thereunder.

Activities must not violate a public health order in force where the activity takes place, and as much as practical and reasonable, should be in compliance with guidance from Federal, Provincial and Municipal public health authorities.

Attendance:

- Local commissioners shall:
 - Develop and implement drop-off and pick-up procedures to ensure distancing requirements are observed.
 - Inform participants, parents and others attending the activity of the requirements in these Standards, and associated risk of participation
 - Provide the PSA Self-assessment Screening checklist (Schedule A) to participants or their parents and require them to perform screening of their children or themselves before arriving at the planned activity
 - Keep a record of all persons attending the activity, including members, leaders, participants, parents and anyone else on the activity site and their contact information, so that it is available for contact tracing in the event of an outbreak.

- Members, leaders and participants, (as well as parents and guardians who are dropping off/ picking up participants) must not attend the activities if they are sick
- Persons ordered to quarantine or self-isolate by local authorities or under the Federal Quarantine Act are prohibited from participating in in-person scouting activities

Hygiene:

- Local commissioners shall:
 - Make a plan for ensuring appropriate levels of hygiene, cleaning and disinfecting
 - Ensure hand-washing stations and/or Alcohol Based Hand Rub with a minimum 60% alcohol concentration is made available for all activities. (Soap and water are preferred as it is the most effective method and least likely to cause harm if accidentally ingested.)

- Encourage participants to bring their own equipment or materials, when possible.
- Ensure all shared equipment and supplies is cleaned between each use. Ensure leaders are familiar with the First Aid Instructions (Schedule B)

Program and activities:

- Local Commissioners shall ensure activities are modified or adjusted
 - to enable maintaining a physical distance of at least two meters between participants
 - to minimize physical contact, unless required for an emergency (See First Aid Instructions Schedule B)
 - to limit the use of shared objects (e.g. gym or sports equipment, art and craft supplies, games) when possible. (If using shared equipment, the objects must be cleaned between each use.)
 - Ensure participants are divided into cohorts (szóstki, zastępy, patrole) and plan the program so that cohorts interact primarily with one another. Avoid having participants create different groups for individual activities: they should stick with their cohort, and the leader assigned to it. A cohort minimizes the number of youth and leaders any individual comes in contact with. The goal is to maintain consistency in those contacts as much as possible, yet allow more interaction within the cohort.
- The sharing of equipment, materials and resources is limited to within cohorts only.
- Food provision for meetings and activities and sharing of food between participants is to be avoided.
- Singing is known to be a high risk for COVID-19 transmission and should be avoided.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Unless prescribed by local regulations, personal protective equipment (PPE), such as masks are not mandatory during outdoor scouting activities. The exception is an emergency situation – See Schedule B.
- District and Local Commissioners may require the use of masks or face coverings for a planned activity

Attachments:

Schedule A: Self-Assessment Screening Checklist

Schedule B: First Aid Instructions

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