



May 26th, 2020

Dear Scouting Friends and Families,

After careful deliberation and with heavy hearts, the Black Hills Area Council Executive Committee has made the difficult decision to cancel all the 2020 sessions of summer camp at Medicine Mountain Scout Ranch. This decision was not made easily. While we are saddened, we believe that it is the right decision, with regards to the health and safety of all Scouting families who love and enjoy our summer camps.

Some of the factors that lead to this decision include our ability to adequately train and prepare camp staff; our ability to access and secure appropriate PPE, medical supplies, sanitizer, and cleaning supplies; and, above all else, our ability to ensure participant and staff health and safety by reasonably implementing and maintaining health screening, cleaning, sanitization, and social distancing protocols regarding COVID-19 in a summer camp environment.

We are committed to our summer camping programs and properties. We continue to invest in improvements to our facilities and programs and look forward to future opportunities for Scouts and Scouters to return to camping at Medicine Mountain Scout Ranch in 2021. As such we are offering a 100% roll over of the fees paid for units wishing to attend Medicine Mountain next year. Your unit will get to secure your dates before our system officially opens for 2021 reservations. We plan to refund your deposit in full, but if anyone wishes to donate the deposit to cover our costs already incurred it will be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support in these difficult times. More information regarding roll overs and refunds can be found in the FAQ below.

Although in-person summer camping programs are canceled, we are blessed to have an energetic and enthusiastic program team and camp staff who are currently working to develop opportunities for Scouts to engage in virtual camp programs, such as merit badges and activities, throughout the summer. Information on these opportunities will be forthcoming.

We value the partnership of all our Scouting units and families. We understand that there are many questions you may have as a result of these cancelations and have provided some information below that may be helpful. If you have any questions, please contact us at [reservations@blackhillsbsa.org](mailto:reservations@blackhillsbsa.org) or our council Program Director at [stewart.smith@scouting.org](mailto:stewart.smith@scouting.org) for any help in this process.

Yours in Scouting,

Brad Fisher, Council President

Mike Lewis, Council Commissioner

Corey Davis, CEO/ Scout Executive

Joel Bice, Council Vice President of Program

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## ***2020 Medicine Mountain Scout Ranch Camp Closure FAQ***

### **How do we register for 2021 summer camps?**

We strongly encourage and welcome troops to “roll-over” their camp fees to 2021. If your unit is currently registered for 2020 and wishes to move your reservation forward to 2021, please contact Stewart Smith at the council office to start this process. Any troop that rolls over 100% of their 2020 Summer Camp fees will be guaranteed the registration fees from 2020 Summer Camp. If your unit wants to just roll over a portion of your fees as a deposit your unit will have a guaranteed place for summer camp at MMSR in 2021 but will be subject to any registration fee increases. Because your Scouts are paid in full, they will be able to select classes and activities as soon as the schedule is available. Please contact us before June 26<sup>th</sup> to roll your registration to 2021. Registrations not rolled over by June 26<sup>th</sup> will be canceled and refunded.

### **What if we don't know which week, we want to attend in 2021?**

Your unit does not have to determine which week it would like to attend camp in 2021. We can move your registration forward now and let your unit take time to discuss and plan for Summer Camp in 2021. Once you determine which specific week your unit wants to attend camp, just let us know and we will move your registration onto that specific week of camp. We encourage all units to reserve early as we anticipate the 2021 Summer Camp weeks will fill up quickly. Units that roll over 100% of the units 2020 Summer Camp fees to 2021 will not be subject to 2021 fee increases.

### **How do we request a refund?**

Any reservation or payment already made for a 2020 camp program will automatically be refunded. The only need for units to contact us is to move your current camp fees into 2021.

### **How will we receive our refund?**

Camper fees will be refunded to the units via a check. No action is needed to begin this process. Refunds will be put into the process, then the unit will receive a paper check. Please do not contact us individually for refunds as camp fees will be returned to the unit only. Units are responsible for reimbursing individuals.

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