

**Preparing for Northern Tier**  
**Information Regarding COVID-19 for Parents and Advisors**



## Northern Tier Statement

The health of participants, staff members, and the communities where we operate are our primary concern. The purpose of this communication is to provide information, convey policies and prepare BSA units to attend Northern Tier.

Information found in this communication mirrors “Northern Tier’s COVID-19 Mitigation Plan” which has been submitted to local and state health departments.

**Important Note:** *Precautions cannot fully eliminate the potential for exposure to COVID-19 or any other illness while at Northern Tier. Persons with COVID-19 may show no signs or symptoms of illness, but can still spread the virus, and people may be contagious before their symptoms occur. It is possible that someone with COVID-19 may pass the required health screenings and be allowed into camp.*

*Every staff member, volunteer, and Scouting family must evaluate their unique circumstances and make an informed decision before choosing to attend Northern Tier.*

## Pre-Trek Planning, Unit Screening

- **Know Before You Go:** Units traveling from states that are experiencing travel bans, please take that into consideration while making the decision to attend Northern Tier.
- **Required Unit Screening:** Crews must set a date, 1-2 days prior to travel, to complete the newly required BSA Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist. The document must be submitted upon arrival.
- **Illness Restrictions:** Sick individuals are not eligible to attend Northern Tier.
- **Temperature Restrictions:** Individuals with elevated temperatures, above 100.4, are not eligible to attend Northern Tier.
- **Illness/Temperature Restrictions Impacting Crews:** Crews arriving with (1) or more participants who are sick or have an elevated temperature will be sent to a physician for treatment/testing. If (1) or more members of the crew test positive for a communicable illness/disease, including COVID-19, the crew will not be permitted to remain onsite.
- **Chronic Medical Conditions:** Individuals with serious, chronic, medical conditions making them high risk should not attend Northern Tier.
- **Travel Restrictions:** Participants who have traveled outside of the continental United States in the last 1-14 days are not eligible to attend Northern Tier unless they have been tested for and cleared of COVID-19.
- **Exposure Restrictions:** Participants who have been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 1-14 days are not eligible to attend Northern Tier unless they have been tested for and cleared of COVID-19.
- **Pre-Trek Social Distancing:** Crews must communicate to participants and their immediate household that everyone should ensure proper social distancing 2 weeks prior to attending Northern Tier.
- **Hand Sanitizer Requirement:** All members of the crew must always have at least a 2oz bottle of hand sanitizer on their person and use frequently while at Northern Tier.

- **Facial Covering Requirement:** Northern Tier will require face masks worn while on base in common areas. Options may include a traditional cloth face mask, buff, neckerchief, neck gaiter, etc. It must cover the nose and mouth. CDC is additionally advising the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.
- **Unit Leadership:** Each crew must elect/assign a youth member of your crew to act as the Sanitation Chief for the duration of your adventure. Responsibilities will include instructing/reminding crew members to:
  - Socially distance from other travelers, crews, staff members.
  - Not to touch their eyes, nose, mouth.
  - Wash hands and use hand sanitizer.
  - Wear facial coverings.
  - Sanitize equipment/cabins.
- **Crew Participation Model and Social Distancing:** Due to the nature of program types, activities and safety requirements, it is not possible for Northern Tier to socially distance within a crew (person to person) or distance the crew from assigned staff members. Each crew will be considered a family unit.
- **Social Distancing Requirements:** Crews are required to socially distance from other crews, the public, and non-assigned staff members. Crews refusing to socially distance will not be permitted to remain onsite.
- **Travel Types:** Crews should avoid traveling to Northern Tier aboard trains or busses unless the provider has social distancing and air purification plans in place.

## Traveling to Northern Tier

Units traveling to Northern Tier should take the following precautions to limit the risk of contracting COVID-19 while traveling to and/from Northern Tier:

- **Sickness:** Do not allow participants who are sick to travel.
- **Exposure:** Do not allow participants who have been exposed to COVID-19 to travel.
- **Handwashing:** Wash hands frequently.
- **Touching:** Avoid touching eyes, nose, mouth.
- **Hand Sanitation:** Bring hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol & use frequently.
- **Facial Covering:** Bring and use facial coverings.
- **Touching:** Avoid unnecessary touching of handrails, doors, etc.
- **Social Distancing:** Avoid close contact with non-crew members, within 6ft.
- **Food Service:** Pick up food at drive-throughs, curbside delivery, or stores.
- **Stops:** Limit non-essential stops.
- **Transportation:** Avoid trains and busses unless the provider has social distancing and air purification plans in place.

## Checking in at Northern Tier

To ensure proper social distancing Northern Tier will require:

- **Facial Covering:** Participants must wear facial coverings upon arriving at Northern Tier.
- **Social Distancing:** One adult leader will be allowed to check-in a crew at a time.
- **Social Distancing:** No other youth or adults from the crew, or any other crew, will be permitted in/at the check-in area.
- **Adult Oversight:** Members of each crew will wait in assigned areas. It is the responsibility of the second adult leader to ensure that youth and adults remain in the assigned area.
- **Medical Screening/Temperature Check:** Each participants BSA AHMR will be reviewed and everyone will have their temperature taken upon arrival. Crews arriving with a sick individual or individual with temperature exceeding 100.4 degrees will not be permitted to remain onsite.

## Meal Service

Northern Tier will restrict the number of persons who access dining facilities:

- Meals will be served family style in our dining hall.
- Each crew will have an assigned location to enjoy their meal.

## Retail, Minnesota

Ely retail locations can be open at half capacity.

- Please perform a thorough shakedown prior to your arrival at Northern Tier.
- Please look at our COVID-19 Resources for an example shakedown performed.
- If you need to order any gear for your trip, please order online a few weeks prior to your arrival.

## Housing while at Northern Tier

Northern Tier provides each crew with a cabin(s) following all Youth Protection requirements.

- Crews will be provided with sanitizing solution and wipes to clean their cabin upon their arrival and departure.

## Staff Wellness

Northern Tier staff will be subject to daily medical review, mandatory illness reporting, and temperature checks. Staff will be required to:

- Attend COVID-19 specific training.
- Socially distance from all non-assigned crews.
- Socially distance from the public whenever possible and adhere to social distancing when in public.
- Wear facial coverings in common areas, retail, food service areas, and whenever prudent/possible.

## **General Personal Cleanliness**

Northern Tier participants and staff are required to:

- Frequently wash hands for 20 seconds using soap and water.
- Avoid touching their mouth, nose, eyes.
- Possess and use hand sanitizer containing 60% alcohol.
- Possess and wear facial coverings.

## **Closing**

Northern Tier has developed a plan to decrease the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission and has shared its plan with local health officials. Staff will receive significant training on new policies and procedures. However, no level of planning can fully eliminate the potential for COVID-19 transmission. Traveling to, participating at, and returning home from Northern Tier presents risks.

It is essential that each participant, parent or guardian, and volunteer adult leader understands the risks associated prior to attending Northern Tier. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of attendees and their parents or guardians to make the decision that is best for them and their families.