COVID-19 Guidelines for Tomahawks

August 2020

Guidelines for Tomahawks at Girl Scouts Nation’s Capital Camp Properties During COVID-19

Introduction:
The purpose of this document is to present a set of suggested practices, based on currently available information, while using tomahawks at Girl Scouts Nation’s Capital Camp Properties during COVID-19. These suggestions are provided to assist facilitators and do not replace guidance from federal (e.g., CDC), state, and local authorities. Individual facilitators are responsible for appropriate risk assessment and risk management.

Site-Specific Information about Our Slingshot Ranges and Rentals
All Girl Scouts Nation’s Capital camps have a tomahawk range. Access to water/washstands at the ranges can be very limited or nonexistent. As such, all groups should bring plenty of hand sanitizer for their session.

There will be a one-hour “rest period” between all rentals. We recommend that this additional time be used as needed for any final cleaning your group needs to complete.

Some disinfecting wipes will be provided at the range, but groups should also bring their own cleaning supplies.

Facilitator Setup

- Wipe down bean bags, tomahawk handles, and blades with disinfectant wipes or spray. Allow equipment to dry completely.
- At ranges that normally have three targets, only the outside two should be used. When setting up the range, make it clear that the middle target should not be used. At any camp with a fence target, only two girls should be throwing at a time and there should be at least six feet between throwers. Be aware that targets at Camp Crowell’s range are closer together and it may not be possible to have two throwers six feet apart.

Preparing for the Activity with Participants

- All participants should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer (perform hand hygiene) at the start of the session.
- Masks should be worn at all times for the duration of the session.
- When reviewing the rules and practicing with the bean bags, all members of the group should be social distancing.
- If the facilitator and entire group is comfortable, the facilitator may remove their mask when giving safety instructions at the beginning of the session. If they choose to do this, the facilitator must stand at least 15 feet away from any other individual.
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- If there are not enough bean bags for each participant to use one without sharing, consider skipping the bean bag warm-up. An alternative, if girls have bandannas, they could bunch those up to practice the throw.

During the Activity

- Masks should be worn at all times.
- Have a maximum two girls throw at a time, with 6 feet between them if the range allows.
- The facilitator and all attending individuals, not just the throwers, should maintain social distancing throughout the activity.
- For small groups, there may be enough tomahawks for each girl to have her own. For larger groups, consider the following options:
  - Each participant could use one tomahawk, retrieving it in between throws. Once a participant is done throwing tomahawk 'A', it would be wiped down and set to dry. Repeat with all available tomahawks. Once all the tomahawks have been used once, the next participant would use tomahawk ‘A’. Any tomahawk must be completely dry prior to reuse.
  - Consider having individuals who have already been in proximity with each other, such as family members, girls who shared the same sleeping unit, etc. share the same set of tomahawks. The tomahawks should still be cleaned and allowed to dry completely between uses.
  - If participants are able to perform hand hygiene prior to each time they use a tomahawk, and the group is comfortable with it, they could share tomahawks as normal.
- Throwers could wear gloves, but they need to be gloves that still allow the participant to grip the tomahawk properly. Gloves should not be shared between participants.

After the Activity

- All participants perform hand hygiene.
- Disinfect all bean bags, tomahawk handles, blades, and any other equipment used. Let the equipment air dry before putting it away.
- Wipe down the box’s lid and lock prior to departing.