



# 2021 National Jamboree

July 14, 2020

During its history, the Boy Scouts of America has had to adapt its programs to respond to events that have affected our country, our communities, and our Scouting participants. Scouting has endured World Wars, economic downturns, and a previous health epidemic—remaining an organization where fun and adventure are used to deliver the character, citizenship, fitness, and leadership skills for which it's known.

In the face of current challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have made the difficult decision to postpone the 2021 National Jamboree. The unpredictability of the pandemic and the impact it's had on councils this year are the two main reasons for this difficult decision.

The Boy Scouts of America is committed to the safety of all youth in our programs. Planning, preparations, and decisions regarding National Jamborees take place months, and even years, in advance. The unresolved issues surrounding the pandemic make it exceedingly difficult to plan and prepare for a premiere event of this size in a way that continues to keep the safety of Scouts, volunteers, staff and communities at the forefront.

We also recognize that the pandemic has dramatically impacted local councils, which are vital to the delivery of local Scouting and the success of any National Jamboree.

Circumstances surrounding COVID-19 prompted the closure of 70% of council summer camp programs this year, caused office closures, reduced key funding sources, and forced many councils to temporarily or permanently reduce their staff size. We believe postponing the 2021 National Jamboree will help bolster much-needed attendance at council camps next summer—by which time we hope the spread of COVID-19 has significantly subsided—and will give councils the opportunity to focus their limited resources on maximizing incredible local Scouting opportunities for families in their communities.

This decision was not made lightly, and we recognize that it may mean some Scouts will not have a Jamboree experience they had looked forward to. We believe, however, that it is the best path forward, and we are committed to hosting this incredible event at a future date.

Leaders were confronted with a similar decision when planning for the 1935 National Jamboree as our country faced a polio epidemic. Our leadership rallied then, as they have now, and postponed the 1935 Jamboree until 1937. That Jamboree started a legacy of high quality and impactful events that lives on today and will continue in the future.

As this decision is recent, there are many details surrounding the National Jamboree that we are working diligently to resolve. The attached FAQ was developed to help answer preliminary questions, and we will keep you posted on our progress through direct communications and at <https://jamboree.scouting.org>. Questions can be directed to the National Jamboree team at [2021Jamboree@Scouting.org](mailto:2021Jamboree@Scouting.org).

Scouting changes lives. It has, it does, and it will continue to do so because of the dedication of our Scouting family.

Thank you for your support and for all you do!

Al Lambert  
Assistant Chief Scout Executive  
National Director of Outdoor Adventures,  
Boy Scouts of America