



District 5

Outdoor Lodge Meeting Tips to Consider Darlene Arneson, Secretary April 2021

As we move into warmer months, lodges may want to consider having their meetings or events outside to offer members social distancing in an outdoor setting. Some may not be comfortable yet with being inside.

It's important to check with your county health department to know the current regulations on gathering size, food restrictions and other COVID related items. Some cities may also have regulations more restrictive than county or state regulations.

The following are suggestions of things to consider as you plan outdoor events and gatherings for your lodge.

Places to meet

- Parks- county, city or township
- Outdoor event venues
- Agri-tourism- farms sometimes have meeting spaces or shelters if they do farm tours
- Breweries or wineries
- Local service groups who might have venues with outdoor patios or spaces
- Fairgrounds
- Museums or other attractions that have outdoor spaces
- Swimming pools or splash pads often will have a park next to them

What to consider about a space or what you need for supplies and equipment

- Lights
- Bug spray
- Sun protection
- Are there bathrooms?
- Is there parking?
- Seating- are there chairs or should people bring their own?
- Tables- are there tables, picnic tables or do you need to provide?
- Microphones or sound system
- PPE- disposable masks, gloves and hand sanitizer
- Is it accessible for any physical challenges or handicapped accessibility needs?
- Cost to rent
- Rain or shine?

What to ask members and guests to bring

- Their own chairs if needed
- Beverages for themselves if needed
- Snacks- pre wrapped if they are sharing
- PPE- masks, gaiters or gloves, hand sanitizer
- Tents if needed
- Gear for weather, rain, wind

Programs, entertainment and activities

- Sports and physical activities- kubb, walking, bags or corn hole, other yard games, pickleball, softball, tennis, soccer
- If at a park- playground for younger children
- Walking trails
- Birding
- Show n Tell- have members bring items that they can tell about. Ideas- favorite trolls, rosemaling, carving, handiwork, dolls and other items
- Music presentation that doesn't need a big set up
- Singing- a sing-a-long
- About Me Game that Mike Palecek developed
- Board games or card games
- Bingo
- Scavenger hunt
- Youth group presentations- Scouts, 4-H, choirs, band
- Storytelling presentation
- If your zone has the District Viking Chests, reserve that for your event or meeting!

What about food and beverages?

- Check with local or county health department to see if any restrictions
- Food safety- keeping hot foods hot and cold foods cold
- Bring their own vs providing
- Catered event
- Charge, free or sponsored
- Making it easy- tableware, containers, ice, heat as needed

Great COVID related videos at ServSafe!

Free COVID-19 Precautions Training- NEW! "ServSafe Conflict De-escalation" is now available in addition to our Re-Opening Guidance, Delivery and Takeout training videos. Coronavirus is on everyone's mind as its effects are being felt around the world. We're all concerned for the health and safety of our families, friends, and colleagues. Please know that we at ServSafe are taking all necessary measures to safeguard our staff while ensuring that your food safety needs can be met. We are taking enhanced steps to serve you by phone and digitally via text, chat and email. For 30 years, ServSafe has been at the forefront of preparing restaurant and foodservice workers to deliver safe dining experiences for their guests, while also keeping themselves safe. Because of the challenges presented by COVID-19, we have developed a number of free resources aimed at keeping our workers and the dining public safe. <https://www.servsafe.com/freecourses>