

Dear NCSP Patroller's and Family,

Over the past month, the NCSP Officers have met weekly on conference calls. We start each call with personal check-ins, seeing how each of us and our families are doing. I'd like to start this note in the same way. Please take a moment and let us know how you and your loved ones are managing. Send an email to any of the officers, or post a quick update on Facebook if you are part of that community. We value the chance to check-in with everyone and would appreciate hearing from you.

For that same reason we will be hosting an NCSP Community Video-Conference Call at 11 am on Saturday, May 2, 2020, for an hour. We'd very much love to see all the many faces of NCSP gathered together for mix of officer reports, updates, questions & answers, as well as a chance to just be together. Hosting a call for upwards of 90 people is complicated. To help with that, if you have a question, please send it along to any officer prior to April 28. This will give us time to have things together ahead of the call. Please look for more details coming out soon and plan to join us.

Yesterday, the state of New York extended the "Stay-At-Home" order until at least May 15, 2020. The Upper Delaware National Park Service remains closed. *As of today, NCSP is NOT cleared to be on patrol. At this time, we are unable to say when that will change. When it does, we will notify our membership through the website, by email, and on Facebook.*

Attached please find two documents. The first "NCSP Patrol Season Kickoff Notices 2020" focuses on our pre-season, including directions for registration, dues, completing CPR and First Aid certifications, ID Cards, and so on. The second, "NCSP Best Practices for Patrol Season" is a *first draft* assessment of special concerns that will need to be considered prior to the start of our patrol season. Be aware that these practices will likely be updated often, as CDC and NPS guidelines change. Take the time to carefully read these documents. Then take a moment to register and get your certifications in order and sent in.

In closing, I'd like to remind everyone of the top priority in swiftwater rescue, and that is protect yourself first. NCSP depends on you taking care of yourself ahead of taking care of others. For this reason, we have lifted the 4-day minimum requirement for active patrollers this year. We are an all-volunteer organization and want to ensure that each of you remains healthy, safe, and able to operate within your own comfort zone. Whether you are able to patrol at all this year, for whatever reason, be it zero days or more, every current, registered member of NCSP will receive full credit for the 2020 season. Your safety comes first.

I sincerely look forward to being together on the water again when it's safe to do so,

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NCSP Best Practices for Patrol 2020

4/16/2020 Draft – This is a ‘living’ document. As such, we will continue updating throughout the year based on CDC and NPS guidelines, and invite input. Please send your thoughts and suggestions to any officer.

Special Concerns and Best Practices for the 2020 Patrol Season:

1. It is always important to take all pertinent safety precautions. However, for the 2020 patrol season, please observe additional measures regarding COVID-19 risks:
 - a. Be alert to and follow current, up-to-date guidance provided by national, state and local authorities and by the National Park Service.
 - b. The National Park Service is modifying its operations in accordance with the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local public health authorities.
 - c. CDC guidance may be found online at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

2. In addition to the usual patrol safety precautions:
 - a. Maintain heightened situational awareness.
 - b. Pay particular attention to visitor consent in contact situations.
 - c. Observe social distancing guidance. Maintain at least 6-foot distancing wherever possible, and use careful judgement in all cases of closer personal contact.
 - d. Decontaminate as soon as possible following contact. Decontaminate personal and community equipment before and after patrol and following any uncontrolled contact situations.
 - e. See Also: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html>
 - f. Cleaning and decontaminating:
 - i. Good Soap and Water washing process is a great place to start.
 - ii. Use bleach spray on surfaces that tolerate bleach.
Do NOT use bleach on lifejackets.
Consider making your own bleach solution spray bottle to disinfect equipment. (*See directions at CDC link provided above.*)
 - iii. Use hand sanitizer and alcohol swabs for things that degrade under bleach.
 - iv. Bring and use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
 - g. Consider more extensive use of Personal Protective Equipment such as masks and gloves.
 - h. Manage patrol shuttles to maintain social distancing as much as possible, Open windows and vents to maintain clean airflow in vehicles. Consider wearing masks during shuttles.

- i. Plan for the extra time needed to manage potential contamination. This should include treating surfaces pre- and post-patrol including Park Service radios, first aid kits and other equipment.
 3. At the time of this writing, no opening date has been announced for the patrol season. NCSP is NOT cleared to be on patrol. *We are unable to say when that will change. When it does, we will notify our membership through the website, by email, and on Facebook.*
 4. Once the season opens, lighter than usual visitation is expected.
 5. Modified NCSP service requirements: NCSP will support individual members making patrol decisions for their personal safety and will not require four days patrol service in the 2020 season., and will accept any service level in 2020 (including zero days).
 6. Skill drills – Schedule to be announced; Other training options may be offered by the NSP and/or NCSP.
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NCSP Patrol Season Kickoff Notices 2020

4/15/2020 Draft

Notes regarding Patrol Season Kickoff 2020:

7. Due to public health concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Spring Training Exercises originally scheduled for May 1-3, 2020 are cancelled.
 - a. NCSP will hold a special Season Kickoff Conference call on Saturday May 2, 2020 starting at 11:00 a.m. (log-in as early as 10:30 am if you'd like to test your system.) Call-in details and agenda to follow. (Practice calls will be held Friday May 1, 2020 at 4 pm and 8 pm for anyone who would like to test their telephone conference connections before Saturday's call.)
 - b. At the time of this writing, no opening date has been announced for the patrol season. *NCSP is NOT cleared to be on patrol.* We are unable to say when that will change. When it does, we will notify our membership through the website, by email, and on Facebook.
 - c. Skill-drill exercises will be conducted on weekends during the patrol season on a schedule to be announced.
8. Registration (Dues, Waivers, First Aid and CPR certificates) are due Saturday May 2, 2020.
 - a. Please complete your 2020 Registration and Waiver from the NCSP website. See: <https://nationalcanoesafetypatrol.life/registration-payment/>
Please pay dues via PayPal through the website.
 - b. Please submit scanned copies of your Waiver, First Aid and CPR certificates when you register online using the Membership Registration form. If you need to, email to NCSP Secretary Chuck Haupt. Email: [\[chaupt@me.com\]](mailto:chaupt@me.com)
 - c. Please note that American Red Cross is offering a free online 90-day extension [course](#) for existing CPR/AED for Professional Rescuer certifications. All others can take a provisional certification course [here](#).
9. ID cards will be distributed at patrol check-in. However, temporary printable ID card images will be sent via email following May 2 registration.
 - a. Returning 2019 Probationary Members who have completed 2019 patrol requirements and submit their 2020 Waivers, First Aid and CPR Certificates will be issued full member ID cards
 - b. Returning Seasoned members in good standing who pay their 2020 dues, and submit their 2020 Waiver, First Aid and CPR Certificates by May 2, 2020 will be issued full member ID cards.
 - c. New members will be accepted in the same manner as mid-season new members. Note that NPS VIP forms will be required for new members at their first patrol check-in.