



April 24, 2020

Dear Girl Scout Family,

We hope you and your family are doing well. The COVID 19 pandemic has forced us all to rethink how we work and socialize. I am proud of the innovative ways our Girl Scout volunteers and staff have responded, providing virtual troop meetings, online experiences, adult training, and badge and program activities for our members. To date, 28,900 girls at all levels have participated in virtual troop meetings led by Council staff alone!

After careful consideration, given the need to limit large group gathering, we have made several decisions that will impact summer programming for our Council:

- The suspension of all in-person Girl Scout gatherings is extended through August 14, 2020.
- All 2020 summer sleep-away and day and evening camp programs are canceled. All registered campers will receive full refunds.
- Our offices, shops, and camp properties remain closed. We will continue to monitor official guidance in hopes of re-opening some if not all before August 14.

We know that Girl Scout gatherings, especially in the outdoors, would provide a wonderful remedy to the challenges we are all facing. However, we strive to honor one of Girl Scout's key tenets – safety.

We will continue to provide virtual and online programming for our Girl Scouts. Visit [Girl Scouts at Home](#), updated weekly, to find more activities. Next week's Virtual Conversations with Girl Scout Mentors will feature Gold Award alumnae from our Council. These young women are recent college graduates, who can provide tips about navigating college, job search and embarking on a career. Teen Girl Scouts can register [here](#).



Girl Scouts are earning badges, participating in virtual troop meetings, and performing acts of kindness all around the Council. Thank you for sharing and posting your photos on our social media.



We were excited to have the highest attendance in our history at our remote Annual Meeting. More than 800 members joined us. The livestream recording is [here](#) for you to enjoy. We are especially grateful to the many Girl Scouts who shared clips of themselves doing the [Girl Scout Promise](#) and the [Girl Scout Law](#) and who closed out the Annual Meeting with a virtual rendition of [Make New Friends](#). We want to say congratulations to all those being elected to [the Council Board](#).

I know we will emerge from this stronger as a Council. In the meantime, stay safe and stay Girl Scout strong.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Lidia Soto-Harmon

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