Girl Scout members,

Yesterday, the Alaska State Governor declared Alaska “a state of emergency” due to the COVID-19 spread in the Lower 48 states and around the world. This declaration will position Alaska for federal funding to address the multitude of current and future needs associated with mitigating the spread and exposure of Alaska residents to this pandemic, even though no cases to date have been recorded here. Also yesterday, the World Health Organization officially declared this viral spread as a pandemic. The schools in Alaska started taking action today with extended breaks and possible future closures. If schools in Fairbanks are closed, we will be suspending troop meetings as well. If this action is taken, we will provide troop leaders with resources to interact with their members remotely. Start thinking now of pulling together emails or phone numbers to interact with your families electronically.

The council office has decided to project our workflow in two-week blocks. Watch for emails, or on our website, to see if programs, activities or events have been cancelled or postponed. At this time, the office will remain open. However, starting Monday, March 16th we ask that our members limit their visits to the council office to pressing matters, and encourage everyone to ask questions by email or by phone if possible. Understanding that the cookie sale is still underway, we will keep the cookie cupboard open as well as the checkout of booth sale resources.

The council staff will be meeting frequently to discuss the best course of action due to the rapid pace of this pandemic. We will be providing you with timely information as we make decisions based on local, state and national efforts to slow the spread of this virus. In the meantime, please take all of the necessary precautions for your personal safety and wellness (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html). This is a new territory for us as a staff and as a nation. It is our objective at Farthest North Girl Scouts to keep our members and staff safe while still providing the high level of service you expect.

If you have questions or need more information, don’t hesitate to call our office.

Thank you,

Suellen Nelles
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**Girl Scouts – Preparing Girls for a Lifetime of Leadership**