Farthest North Girl Scout Council
Council Connection
Week of March 30, 2020

To our members:

It has become official. The State has mandated that all non-essential businesses close. However, we are still here for you virtually. Our website will be updated daily. The phones have been forwarded to the hotline number and emails will get answered. Please be patient and allow 24 hours for replies to your emails and voice messages. As we move into April, we are working with troops on cookie sale payments, maintaining troop connections electronically and reworking our spring schedule. We encourage everyone to stay home as much as possible to help stop the spread of this virus. The sooner we slow the spread, the sooner we can reclaim our normal routines. Stay safe, Girl Scouts!

The Farthest North Girl Scout Council Staff

Cookie Sale
Troop cookie payments are due this week, however we are extending the deadline for troops to sell cookies, with the promise of future delivery. Troops may continue to sell through April in the following ways. Here are the suggestions:

- Contact pre-order customers and ask them to purchase more. Let them know delivery will happen when it’s safe.
- Call family and friends and see if they would like to buy some Gift of Caring cookies.
- Post on your private social media groups (no larger than 100) that you have cookies for sale and customers can make promises for future delivery.
- See if customers or businesses will buy by the case with promise of future delivery.
- Start thinking of summertime booth locations once we are allowed to have social interactions.

Payment and money collection: Troop payments are due Wednesday, April 1st. Understanding that many troops lack the funds to pay the bill; the Council office will be reaching out to make arrangements.

Cookie Donation Promotion: The cookie donation promotion starts this week. Watch for our ads all over Fairbanks encouraging customers to donate a case of cookies to our first responders and medical personnel. This will not only thank our local front-line workers, but also help offset some of the excess cookie troops are holding from booth sale closures.

Communications

- The Council Connection will be published twice weekly on Mondays and Thursdays and posted on the website instead of through email.
- Daily updates are published on our homepage at www.fairbanksgirlscouts.org.
- We encourage communication through email at the following addresses:

  Meagan Scheer, Membership at membership@gsak.org
  Leah Hill, Director of Operations at program@gsak.org
  Mimi Hill, Shop and Cookie Sale at shop@gsak.org or cookies@gsak.org
Suellen Nelles, CEO at ceo@gsak.org

Adjustments to Council Programs and Events
Please make these corrections to the Council Calendar.

- **Early Bird Registration** – Delayed to May 1st. Early Bird registration will be May 1 – June 30 with all the same perks as before. Stay tuned for the details.
- **Delegate Training** – April 4th at 10:00am is being reassessed. Stay tuned for more details.
- **All Service Unit Meetings and events** are cancelled through May 1st.
- **Mini BOW** (May 29-31) and **Camp Jessie Bloom Day Camp** (July 13 – 18 and July 20 – 25) – Although cancellation is possible, it is too soon to make that call. We will continue to sign girls up for these events over email. We have suspended collecting payment or paperwork. To register, email program@gsak.org and we will add girls to our list.

Troop Meetings
The council office recommends suspension of in-person troop meetings until May 1st due to the closure of Alaska schools. During this time of families staying put in their homes, we have some ideas about how to stay connected with your troop:

- Zoom is a free video chat room for virtual meetings. Set up bi-weekly or monthly meetings with a quick craft, badgework or an opportunity for girls just to chat.
- Set up a troop private Facebook page for girls to post their at-home badgework and for families to communicate with their troop leader.
- Visit the Council website for all your programmatic needs. All program materials including the Girl Guides are loaded onto our site for easy referencing. Encourage girls to pick a badge and start the steps at home.
- More fun virtual programs are coming this week. Look for our reveal party on Friday, April 3rd.

Annual Meeting
The Annual Meeting is being postponed to a future date, TBD. We look forward to sharing our accomplishments last year with our membership along with the important business and adult recognitions. Watch our calendar updates for the rescheduled date.

Pick.Click.Give.
Now more than ever, please consider a charitable gift to the Girl Scouts when filling out your dividend application, due this Wednesday. Amounts of $25 - $50 will go a long way if everyone pledges to give. We appreciate your consideration.

If you would no longer like to receive this weekly email, click **UNSUBSCRIBE**.
Make sure to follow us on Facebook at **FNGSC**!