Daily FNGSC Website Updates Re: COVID-19 Outbreak

March 23rd – March 27th

March 27, 2020: The Alaska Governor just mandated that all non-essential businesses close. Therefore, we will no longer have cookie swaps or sales, no returns of cookie resources or tally cards and all business will be conducted over the phone and emails. As a reminder, the phone number for the office is (907) 456-4782 or (800) 478-4782 toll free in Alaska. The after hours hotline is (907) 799-1612. All calls to the office number will be forwarded to the after hours phone so please utilize email as a main form of communication. The office emails by department are membership@gsak.org, program@gsak.org, cookies@gsak.org, shop@gsak.org and ceo@gsak.org. Please be patient with us as we make this transition. Allow 24 hours for email and voicemail replies. The communications such as the weekly Council Connection email may be delayed or delivered in a new way so watch the daily updates on the website for important alerts. The Cookie Sale invoices were emailed today and payment is due next week. We will be sensitive to account balances when making transfers and will work closely with our volunteers as we proceed. Stay safe everyone and consider a Girl Scout activity with your daughter this weekend. Our badgework page has lots of ideas!

March 26, 2020: The Cookie Invoice are ready to go. They will be emailed to troop leaders and troop cookie volunteers tomorrow. As we have mentioned, there will be no penalties for troops that cannot pay the full amount by next Wednesday. Please call the office and we will work something out. All payments will be transferred electronically by the office. Plus, we will be starting a promotion for the community to donate cookies that will be donated to the first responders and medical personnel in our community. Be sure to share our promotion with your friends and family as we try to brighten the lives of those on the front lines and boost our sale too.

March 25, 2020: We understand that our members are juggling many responsibilities and demands for your time at a point in history that has no road map. We want to be a support and comfort. As I hear from our members expressing your anxiety with the cookie sale and pressures to keep your troop members connected, I want you to know I hear you. Engage within your abilities, take time off if you need it, ask for assistance and maybe try out a virtual meeting on Zoom if that feels right. Our goal is to make sure your troop is well cared for and we ask for your trust in that promise. The current realities we face necessitate our collection of cookie money next week to keep the daily office afloat. We will do that with a gentle hand and be fair, knowing that many details will be sorted out over the next few months. We will be looking at cookie returns and financial aid back to troops once we have a handle on the big picture. We're a family,
we believe in the Girl Scout Promise and Law and our decisions at the council will reflect that. Thank you for your belief in us.

**March 24, 2020:** If we thought "sheltering in place" and "social distancing" wasn't enough, how about a foot of snow to make things ever more interesting. If the projected amount of snow for tonight materializes, the office will most likely be closed tomorrow. Please use the hotline number for all inquiries, 907-799-1612. Our communications this week focus on new cookie sale rules and deadlines, exciting ways to meet with your troop virtually, and our revised calendar of cancellations and postponements of programs and events. Your Farthest North Council staff will be meeting over the next week to plan some fun events that will be added for girls to digitally connect to our online spring programs. Look for our reveal party on April 3rd!

**March 23, 2020:** Hope everyone had a safe weekend. Because we were blessed with many inches of snow last night, staff were not able to be at the office today. The Council Connection email will be delayed until tomorrow as well as cookie invoices. Thanks once again for the flexibility. Please call the after-hours hotline with any pressing questions at 907-799-1612. Important cookie sale updates include new selling rules being posted on this website today, an extension of the April 1st payment deadline for any troop that needs it, and the offer to store booth sale/excess troop cookies at the council office until this crisis blows over. Take time to play in the snow today.