To our members:

Happy Monday! Another week in our new normal has just begun and we’re excited to keep working on ways to bring Girl Scouting to you. Join us on Friday at 1pm for another Facebook Live event where we’ll spotlight some of our favorite Girl Scout ways. Wear your uniform and join in on the Girl Scout fun. Have a great week and keep Girl Scouting!

The Farthest North Girl Scout Council Staff

Special Meeting of the Council – This Saturday
Service Unit Delegates, a Special Meeting of the Council has been called by our Council Board President Russ for this Saturday, April 18, 2020 at 10:00am over the phone to amend the Council bylaws. This meeting is just for elected Service Unit Delegates and Board Members. This bylaws change will allow us to reschedule the Annual Meeting to later in the spring. Stay tuned for a new Annual Meeting date.

Leader Appreciation Lunch on Zoom – Next Week on Zoom!
April is volunteer appreciation month and we want to celebrate our incredible volunteers who make it all possible! Save the date for April 22nd from 12:00pm – 2:00pm for our Leader Appreciation Lunch on Zoom. You should have received an email invitation to this event with the Zoom meeting link. If not, please email program@gsak.org and we will get the invite to you. RSVP through that email to let us know you’ll be there. This group get-together will feature the unveiling of our leader appreciation gift, a recycled materials craft, trivia with prizes, and quality time together. We hope to see you all there!

Virtual Programming and Events Coming Soon

- **Badge Tip Fridays** – Friday, April 17th, and April 24th on our website, www.fairbanksgirlscouts.org
- **Girl Scout Ways Facebook Live Event** – This Friday, April 17th at 1pm on our Facebook page
- **Special Meeting of the Council** – This Saturday, April 18th at 10am by conference call
- **Leader Appreciation Lunch** – Next Wednesday, April 22nd from 12:00 – 2:00pm on Zoom

Service Units Staying in Touch!
We stay in close contact with our troop leaders by facilitating Service Unit Facebook groups just for leaders. If you are not currently approved for your Service Unit page, contact Leah at program@gsak.org or your Service Unit Manager. These Facebook groups allow leaders to check in with each other, bounce ideas around, get support and build community. Join us as we support one another! You can always reach out to the Council or your Service Unit Manager:

Aurora Service unit, Alisa Butcher: lukealisabutcher@gmail.com
Great North Star Service Unit, Shawna Holman: cowgirltxvet@yahoo.com
Forget-Me-Not Service Unit, Sarah Elder: eldergramstad@gmail.com
Remote Troop Meetings
Here are some fun ideas to continue Girl Scouting with your troop:

- Zoom is a free video chat room for virtual meetings. Set up virtual troop meetings with a quick craft, badgework or an opportunity for girls just to chat. A tip sheet for Zoom meetings will be posted on our website this week that will include the security measures troops need to take to keep hackers out.

  - **Zoom Meeting Tips & Ideas:**
    - Keep your meeting to about 30 minutes
    - Since girls spend so much time in front of the screen for school, try having more active meetings where girls get to meet and be active
    - Try having a dance party meeting where you play music that the girls can get up and dance around to
    - Try having a Show & Tell meeting where girls get to bring their favorite stuffed animal or favorite book to talk about
    - Play Pictionary with your troop
    - Have a Friendship Circle but have girls hold hands with a stuffed animal

- Set up a troop Private Facebook page for girls to post badgework and for families to communicate with their troop leader.

  - **Facebook Group Tips & Ideas:**
    - Make sure your group is private to protect the privacy of your girls
    - Use the group as a place for girls to share what they’re doing at home
    - Let girls post photos of their badgework
    - Use the Facebook group to stay in touch with parents
    - Share the Badge Tip Friday flyers on your group page to give families ideas of how to help their girl earn badges at home

- Visit the [Council website](#) for all your programmatic needs. Badge Tip Friday flyers will be posted weekly. Plus, all program materials including the Girl Guides and tons of badge requirements are on our website for easy referencing. Encourage girls to pick a badge and start the steps at home.

**Cookie Sale Payments**

*If you have parents who still owe the troop cookie money, it is urgent to get that collected. If you are having trouble reaching a family, please let the office know and we can help.*

Keep these tips in mind as we pause direct sales for now:

- Troops are welcome to continue selling cookies so long as the delivery process happens when local and state officials give us the all-clear.
- The Council will work on arranging booth sales once it is safe to do so. Until then, please secure your cookie supply in a climate-controlled storage area safe from pets and children. If stored in garages, please make sure cookie cases have a barrier such as a tarp.
- Troops whose sale is an extreme burden on troop proceeds will have an opportunity to apply for financial aid starting June 1st. The troop cookie bill will need to be paid in full and each application will be judged on a case-by-case basis.
- Our Cookie Promotion asking community members to donate cases of Girl Scout Cookies to those in the health care industry and first responders is underway! Please share our posts with friends and families on Facebook.

**Council Communications**

- The Council office is currently closed; however, our office phones are still being answered at the same phone number: 907-456-4782.
- The Council Connection will be published twice weekly on **Mondays** and **Thursdays** and posted on the website instead of through email.
- 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

**Mini BOW Cancelled**

Unfortunately, our Mini BOW weekend at the end of May is now cancelled. Refunds will be mailed on April 17th. In place of Mini BOW, we will be offering some fun virtual ways to still participate. That planning has begun and will be shared with our girls soon.

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