Farthest North Girl Scout Council
Council Connection
April 9, 2020

To our members:

Happy Thursday! Our Cookie Promotion has been very successful and we’re excited to be donating so many Girl Scout cookies to support our front-line health care heroes. Help us spread the word by sharing our cookie promotion Facebook post. Keep your spirits up, stay busy and stay safe, Girl Scouts!

The Farthest North Girl Scout Council Staff

Special Meeting of the Council
Service Unit Delegates, a Special Meeting of the Council has been called by our Council Board President Russ for 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.

Service Units Have Virtual Meetings and Event Coming Soon!
Keep an eye out on your Service Unit Facebook pages for Zoom meetings and events. If you are not currently approved for your Service Unit page, contact Leah at program@gsak.org or your Service Unit Manager. Escape from your daily routine for a break with other leaders navigating your same challenges. Your Service Unit Manager will be reaching out with phone calls too. Join us as we support one another.

Troop Meetings Can Happen from Afar!
Here are some fun ways 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.
  o 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.

Leader Appreciation Lunch on Zoom – April 22nd on Zoom!
April is volunteer appreciation month and we want to show our love and thanks to our community of amazing volunteers! Save the date for April 22nd from 12:00pm – 2:00pm for our Leader Appreciation Lunch on Zoom. We will email all of our leaders and co-leaders an invitation to this event with the Zoom meeting link. 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 (material list will be emailed), trivia with prizes, and time together with each other. We hope to see you all there!

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.

Dates to Remember
- **Badge Tip Fridays** – TOMORROW, April 10th, April 17th, and April 24th on our website, www.fairbanksgirlscouts.org
- **Special Meeting of the Council** – April 18th at 10:00am by conference call
- **Leader Appreciation Lunch** – April 22nd from 12:00 – 2:00pm on Zoom
- **April Calendar with more virtual programming coming soon**!

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