To our Members:

Happy Volunteer Appreciation Month! In the month of April we take time to thank our many adult volunteers who make Girl Scouting possible. We have a special thank you Leader Lunch being held on Zoom coming up. Read more about this fun event below.

We are doing our best to keep our members informed as we take things as they come. Please note the changes to our upcoming events and deadlines:

- Early Bird Registration – Postponed until May, details TBA
- Annual Meeting – Postponed until later in the spring, details TBA
- Special orders through our Council shop: We are no longer taking new shop orders at this time. If you need badges, Girl Scout supplies, or other Girl Scout items, you can purchase them directly through the GSUSA Shop and take advantage of their current free shipping (yes, even to Alaska) offer. You can also order fun patches online through our fun patch company, Advantage Emblem.

Thank you for continuing to be patient with us as we take things one day at a time. Please check our website for updates and new fun program ideas and materials at www.fairbanksgirlscouts.org. 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.

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.
  - 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.

**Badge Tip Fridays**
Every Friday we will post a new Badge Tip flyer to our Facebook page and website. This flyer will give your Girl Scouts and their families ideas on how to start earning a specific badge or fun patch. These tips include ideas for the first couple of steps to start earning a new badge! Last week’s badge was the new Snow/Climb Adventure badge and snow fun patches. Stay tuned for more fun badge-earning ideas!

**Virtual Programming**
We had our first Facebook Live Event last week where Ms. Leah talked to members about Badge Tip Fridays and other fun virtual programming that will be coming up soon, like virtual sing-alongs! Pay attention to our Facebook page and website as we put together more virtual fun!

**Cookie Sale Payments**
We have started receiving many of your troop payments as they come in through the mail. If you are having any difficulty paying your troop bill, please get in touch with us immediately and we can help come up with a solution.

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.
- Booth Sales have been suspended until it is safe to sell cookies in person. 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.
• Think about asking businesses in your community to sponsor cases of Girl Scout cookies to be donated to health care workers and first responders helping to treat the sick. This promotion in Fairbanks has shown some success.

Any other questions? Email cookies@gsak.org or call the Council office at (800) 478-4782.

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: 800-478-4782.
• The Rural Council Connection will be published weekly on Fridays and posted on the website instead of through email.
• We encourage communication through email at the following addresses:
  Leah Hill, Director of Operations & Rural Membership Support at program@gsak.org
  Suellen Nelles, CEO at ceo@gsak.org

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Make sure to follow us on Facebook at FNGSC!