

From: Girl Scouts of West Central Florida, Inc. <Girlscoutswcf@email.girlscouts.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 9:30 AM
To: Alice Benefiel
Subject: Girl Scout Service Unit Team eNewsletter

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Here's the important news your Service Unit needs to know this month.

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COVID-19 Update: Opt Into Texting



In an abundance of caution and accepting the ability to model responsible behavior, GSWCF is transitioning to a predominantly remote workforce, effective March 19. We are still open for business - serving not just our members, but the community at large. All of our properties, including our camps, the Tampa Leadership center, and the Tampa and Wildwood Girl Scout Stores are closed to visitors.

Our hours of operation continue to be 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday - Friday. We continue to be available through phone calls, emails, social media, and our website.

At this time, in We will soon be offering virtual Girl Scouting options on our website. We will update this blog with more information when it's available.

Text messaging is a simple way to stay updated on the latest from GSWCF, like the announcement of our new CEO (Mary Pat King) or the most recent council status on Covid-19.

To opt in, text **BEPREPARED** to (855) 980-0305. You can also opt in by logging into MyGS, clicking Family Profile, selecting edit, and then checking the box next to "text opt in". If you need assistance making the change to your status, contact our [customer connections team](#).

We will continue to update our blog post when new information regarding COVID-19 becomes available. The blog was last updated on **March 16, 2020 at 4:50 p.m.**

BLOG

SU Meetings During COVID-19

To meet or not to meet, that is the question at the top of most of our service unit teams' minds. The safety and well being of our volunteers and girls continues to be our top priority. We encourage our volunteers to follow the current guidelines outlined by the CDC.

Virtual meetings can be fun and are a good way to keep volunteers informed. You can hold your virtual meeting through Facebook Live, and ask viewers to comment on the video with questions or input.

Don't want to be on camera? Hold a webinar. There are free webinar services available. We recommend [Cisco Webex](#).

Webinar tip: Make sure leaders stay present during virtual meetings by asking questions and having them comment throughout the presentation.



ICYMI: Encampment Informational Webinar

In light of recent developments regarding COVID-19, we are reviewing the timeline for when service units will be able to make their encampment date selections. We will post to the Encampment Director Facebook Group and the

Service Unit Manager Facebook Group with any changes causing delays to the booking timelines by **Monday, March 23**.

In case you missed it, the 2020-2021 Encampment Informational Webinar recording is now available. Covered in this webinar are important changes to the equestrian offerings and general information about pricing, reservations, and encampment dates.

[Watch the Recording»](#)

[See the Handouts»](#)

The Early Bird Catches the Worm, or a Trip to National Convention!

Flora the flamingo is heading to Orlando for [G.I.R.L. 2020](#) and wants you to come too. Early Bird Member Renewal 2020 takes off April 1. Flora has some fantastic incentives for all and can't wait to share the details.

[**LEARN MORE**](#)

G.I.R.L. 2020- National Convention!



For three days, girls will dominate Orlando, Florida—and we want you to be there! On October 23–25, 2020, thousands of girls and their supporters from around the world will come together for [G.I.R.L. 2020](#).

Hosted by Girl Scouts of the USA, the mega event will provide attendees with unforgettable experiences as they gain inspiration, tools to empower themselves, and the know-how to lead change in their communities—connecting with some of the most influential women in the world along the way. So awesome!

The historic event takes place every three years and rotates from city to city. Lucky for us, it's right around the corner...well, up I-4.

The G.I.R.L. 2020 G-Team has created a [G.I.R.L. 2020 Troop Travel Guide](#) to get your troop started on the path to Orlando! Check out this document for a sneak-peek at events, costs, and schedules. Your troop can start planning now! Registration is open!

Gear up before you get there

Show your Florida Pride with special "Sunshine Swag" merchandise developed exclusively by the Florida councils. We have t-shirts, bucket hats, water bottles and more all featuring the [Special Edition Girl Scouts of Florida](#) convention logo. Spend \$18 in merchandise in store and receive a FREE GSWCF Flamingo backpack clip, which is only available in the Tampa Store. Look for special swag bundles coming soon and save.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Graduating Seniors Transition to Adult Girl Scouts

GSUSA will be reaching out to leaders of older girl troops and caregivers of graduating seniors to prepare graduates for the transition to Girl Scout alum with some special messages including a letter from national CEO, Sylvia Acevedo. Keep an eye on your inboxes and mailboxes over the next couple of months for ways to celebrate and honor the girls' transition to adult members.

Spring Cleaning- Check Your Rosters



In preparation for Early Bird, it's time to clear your troop rosters of any girls who are no longer participating. Contact all girls who have not been actively participating to see if they wish to remain in your troop. If they have decided the

troop does not work for them, contact our friendly [customer connections team](#) to have the girls removed. **All inactive girls need to be removed from your roster before March 30.**

If a girl is not active in your troop but still wishes to be a Girl Scout, we can help her find another troop that fits her schedule or register her as a Juliette.

Early Bird Renewal prizes for troops are based off of 80% participation so having an accurate troop roster is important.

The logo for MyGS, featuring the text "MyGS" in white on a green rectangular background.

New Girl Scout Members Are Still Welcome!

New girls and adults can join Girl Scouts at any time. Our GSWCF Recruitment team (both staff and volunteers) continues to bring in new members and start new troops. April 1 kicks off the Extended Year Membership and Daisy Discovery.

With the Extended Year Membership, new members can join for \$35 and enjoy membership for the rest of the year as well as 2021! Daisy Discovery gives girls in Pre-k and their parents a chance to learn about Girl Scouting and join for the 2020-2021 Membership Year.

Become A Recruiter!



You're invited to our next in-person Fall Recruitment training! We are excited to partner with you to engage more girls and adults in Girl Scouts next year.

Currently, there are 314,000 girls in our 8 counties and only 20,000 are Girl Scouts. With so many girls seeking to join, and more than 900 schools to host Girl Scout nights, our 6 staff recruiters face a difficult challenge.

We need your help! You're the right person if:

- You love Girl Scouts
- You want to help us by hosting one or more Girl Scout Registration Parties this Fall
- You have a minimum of four hours to volunteer between August – November
- You can share your Girl Scout story with others
- You like to have fun

If this sounds like you, join us on June 6 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at [Nielsen Technology Center](#). We will show you all you need to host a Girl Scout Registration Party at a school in your area.

Be sure to provide your shirt size when you register so we can properly equip you with the new recruiter gear! If you are unable to attend this training, but still want to help, [send us an email](#).



[Register Now](#)

High Award Deadlines

As the end of the school year draws near, we wanted to clarify the deadlines for the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

Fifth graders' deadline to finish their **Bronze Award** is **Sept. 30**.

Eighth graders' deadline to finish their **Silver Award** is **Sept. 30**.

There are **two deadlines** for **Gold Award** Final Reports:

- If you are currently working on your Gold Award Project, and would like to be included in **this year's Gold Award Ceremony (June 2020)**, you must submit your final paperwork by **March 31**.
- **Graduating Ambassadors** (will be included in **next year's Gold Award Ceremony** (June 2021), you must submit your final paperwork by **Sept. 30**.

Questions? [Contact Alison Wernicke](#).

Adult Learning News

[Basic Outdoor Leadership Training \(BOLT\)](#) is our first level of hands-on outdoor training to help volunteers prepare to work with girls (and adults accompanying the troop) in the area of preparation and progression for:

- Outdoor Trips
- Outdoor Cooking skills
- Camping activity skills & Leave No Trace principles
- Pocket Knife Safety

Volunteers also learn camp rules, safety rules, camping traditions and

camaraderie in a fun environment. This training does not need to be repeated.

We encourage those that need an outdoor skills refresher to join us for [Advanced Camp Training \(ACT\)](#) and add on to their skill set.

[More Trainings](#)

Girl Scout Store News



Make your own personalized jewelry with the It's So ME! Word Wear personalized jewelry set. She can mix and create fun phrases with alphabet charms and more! Recommended for girls over the age of 6 years old. When: April 1, from 6-7 pm Cost:\$14 per girl- includes the jewelry making kit by It's So Me! and and an Art to Wear fun patch. The Tampa store will be open during this event, so bring your sash or vest and the store and we will heat press your fun patches to you uniform for free (\$5 value -one sided press only) **We will also offer in store specials including 10% off all tee-shirts and accessories during the event.**

Saturday Shops at the Camp Trading Post

We are open every Saturday at Camp Wai Lani from 9 am–noon and at Camp Dorothy Thomas from 3–6 p.m. You can pick up camp keepsakes, camp gear, fun

patches and more. Need something specific? We can bring anything from the Tampa Girl Scout Store for you to pick up. Just email us before noon on Friday and let us know what you want.

Looking Ahead: We LOVE our volunteers!

National Volunteer Week is April 7-13 and Leader's Day is April 22. Show your Girl Scout leader some love by picking her something up at the Girl Scout Store! We have gifts that every Girl Scout will love!

Online Promotions

- APRIL 1- One day ONLY: 20% off \$50+ (excludes awards).
- April 8-30- 15% Men's and Women's Sportswear

[STORE HOURS, LOCATIONS, AND 24/7 ONLINE SHOP](#)



Have a question? Don't be shy!
[Contact us](#) for more information.

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