

From: Girl Scouts of West Central Florida, Inc. <Girlscoutswcf@email.girlscouts.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 10:28 AM
To: Alice Benefiel
Subject: [NL May]Girl Scout Leaders, here's what you need to know this month.

Power Our Promise with Giving Tuesday Now!

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With so much uncertainty surrounding the months ahead, we have temporarily suspended our "5 Things..." video and Month-At-A-Glance features. To access virtual activities for your family, please visit [the Girl Scouts At Home page](#). To keep up with the latest news and information surrounding the council's response to COVID-19, please [visit our blog](#).

You can also sign up for council text alerts by texting "BEPREPARED" to 855-980-0305.



In this time of uncertainty, Girl Scouts are finding new and creative ways to power our promise to help people at all times. A promise that is important now more than ever.

Girl Scouts in west central Florida and across the country are demonstrating their **resilience** and cultivating the **sisterhood** that helps them impact their **community** today by giving back to first responders, leading service projects and continuing to earn badges at home. Especially in times of crisis, Girl Scouts pull together to make our world a better place.

Today is Giving Tuesday Now, a global day of unity and giving as an emergency response to the COVID-19 health crisis. At a time when educational providers, after-school care, and community activities have closed, Girl Scouts doesn't stop. But we need help to **POWER OUR PROMISE** of preparing the next generation of female leaders and ensuring that Girl Scouts is available to every girl through virtual programming now.

Please help us spread the word to support Girl Scouts of West Central Florida on Giving Tuesday Now by directing people to gswcf.org/donate! Share what Girl Scouts means to you on your social accounts. Use the hashtags **#PowerOurPromise** and **#GivingTuesdayNow**.

To help increase the impact of the donations we receive, our board of directors has joined together to offer a matching gift of \$2,500.



Girl Scouts Give Back



The Girl Scouts Movement has a proud legacy of serving our communities

especially in times of our country's greatest need. During World War II, Girl Scouts planted victory gardens; conducted scrap drives for rubber, metal, and nylon; and trained with the Red Cross on first aid. This tradition continues during the COVID-19 crisis. As girls provide service, Girl Scouts supports girls by providing opportunities to serve others and demonstrate acts of kindness.

The Girl Scouts Gives Back initiative provides a tangible way for girls and their families to support the vulnerable and most impacted in our communities. Our first project is a letter writing campaign developed to encourage troops to send letters to people in nursing homes, senior residences, and assisted living facilities, as well as to the dedicated staff who care for them, since loved ones cannot visit during this time. The intent is to spread Girl Scout kindness and a long-distance hug by sharing good thoughts with these valued community members and letting them know they are not forgotten. We hope to give girls a tangible opportunity to provide a needed service that also helps them feel good.

This project will be promoted through Girl Scouts social media channels to amplify what councils and girls are doing using the #GirlScoutsatHome hashtag.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Early Bird Drawings Are Starting!

On Monday, May 11, Flora will conduct her first drawings for troops, Juliettes and troop leaders who have renewed for the upcoming membership year.

We know there are some who are concerned about what participation in Girl Scouts looks like during these uncertain times and maybe be unsure about renewing. We want to reassure you that Girl Scouts is strong and has been for 108 years. We have survived World Wars and other health pandemics while continuing to provide girls with opportunities to build life-long relationships, experience unique activities, become young entrepreneurs and make impactful changes in their communities. Things change, but Girl Scouts continues.

We show girls our courage by pressing on with new ways of participating, confident with the knowledge that the Girl Scout Leadership Experience is still available to them and will continue to guide them and their efforts to build character by supporting each other. Let's champion together and stand Girl Scouts Strong by making sure girls can be a member next year.

With funds earned through Girl Scout Product Programs, our troops are designed to be self-sustaining and this is even more critical at this time with so many families experiencing financial hardships. What a great way to uplift all our Girl Scout families by renewing the girls with the funds they worked so hard to earn.

All girls who renew receive the annual Early Bird patch for free and are entered in the drawings to be held throughout May and June. Visit the [Renewal Page](#) to see the drawing schedule and a list of prizes your troop could win!

Celebrating our Graduating Seniors



We know during these unprecedented times, a general concern for graduating seniors is strong and we want to show our support and recognition for this very special milestone for our Girl Scouts. Here are the senior Girl Scout activities coming from GSWCF to celebrate our members graduating this year:

- A mailed congratulatory letter signed by our CEO, Mary Pat King
- A Facebook Photo album during the last week in May to spotlight each girls
- Certificate templates for [volunteers](#) and [Service Unit Managers](#) to use to honor graduating seniors

GSUSA will nationally honor girls with:

Letters to each graduating senior

- Bridging email to graduating senior to offer access to Girl Scout college assets

Be Smart Do Your Part Patch Program

Covid-19 has changed the entire world, and we are learning more about it every day. Be Smart and Do Your Part by learning what it all means, how to stay safe, and what you can do to help. This patch program is designed for Girl Scouts of all levels and will guide girls in finding accurate, up-to-date information regarding Covid-19, walk you through how you can spread positivity to your community during this time, and show you new ways to be involved in Girl Scouts.

[Learn More »](#)

Connect with Zoom Virtual Meetings

Using Zoom is a great way to reach your girls. And now more than ever, they need Girl Scouts. If you feel ready to try your hand at hosting a meeting over Zoom, we have you covered with resources and meeting ideas.

We have great tools in the [Leader Resources](#) section of the Girl Scouts At Home pages of our website. We also understand that our world now is demanding a lot and you may not be able to interact with your troop and that's okay. We are here for you and are offering many activities for you and your Girl Scout on our Girl Scouts at Home page.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Girl Scout Trips and Travel

Did you troop plan a domestic or international trip? Here's the latest guidance from GSUSA.

International Travel:

- Trips scheduled now – mid-June: work with your troop to reschedule or cancel now
- Trips scheduled for the remainder of the membership year: get in touch now to start the conversation & help the girls in your troop build contingency plans

Domestic (extended / 3+ night) Travel:

- Trips scheduled now – mid-May: work with your troop to reschedule or cancel now
- Trips scheduled for the remainder of the membership year: get in touch now to start the conversation & help the girls in your troop build contingency plans

For Girl Scout Troops/Groups with Girl Scout Seniors

If your troop planned a trip that include majority/all graduating high school seniors, it may be most prudent to reschedule a trip for summer 2021. A trip scheduled for that time could serve as an exciting Girl Scout reunion! How can this trip qualify as a “Girl Scout” trip? (Key: all attendees should have up to date membership at the time of the trip to be covered by Basic Plan insurance for an overnight/weekend trip, or to have the ability to purchase additional Mutual of Omaha plan for an extended trip.)

Adult Learning News

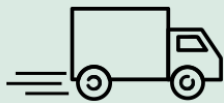
[Focus on Let's Be Girl-Led](#)

Is your troop bridging to the next level? The “Let’s Be Girl-Led” on-demand webinar is a perfect refresher on some Girl Scout basics on the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, and you can choose to get specific information about working with girls for your new Girl Scout level!

[More Trainings](#)

Girl Scout Store News

We've got you covered.



Shop safely from the comfort of your home with **free standard shipping on all online orders, no minimum.**

SHOP NOW

In an abundance of caution and accepting the ability to model responsible behavior, GSWCF Retail stores is closed to visitors. We are available via email daily and phone from 9:30 am – 4 pm Wednesdays and Fridays for all who need assistance. You can order what you need and we'll ship it for FREE! For the most up-to-date information available, call us at 813-262-1793 or [email us](#).

Celebrating Girl Scout Moms

With Mother's Day right around the corner (don't forget – Sunday, May 10!), what better way to celebrate the Girl Scout Moms in your life than with a Girl Scout Mom Shirt for only \$15.

Let the Celebration Begin!

Its award season and it's time to celebrate! We have new and exciting items for Bronze, Silver and Gold Award Girl Scouts, Graduating Ambassadors and girls who are bridging! We have many fun items for your co-leader, cookie mom or service unit leaders starting at \$2!

You Look Like the Fourth of July!

Show your USA pride with Girl Scout gear featuring the American flag, including a fun new scarf and cap!

Boredom Buster Needed?

Looking for activities to do at home—we have many STEM kits and craft activities that compliment badge work and a fun at home Challenge patch program. Call 813-262-1793 or [email us](#) to order or for additional information.

Online Special Promotions

Free shipping on all orders, no minimum required

STORE HOURS, LOCATIONS, AND 24/7 ONLINE SHOP



Have a question? Don't be shy!
Contact us for more information.

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