

From: Girl Scouts of West Central Florida, Inc. <Girlscoutswcf@email.girlscouts.org>
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2020 1:09 PM
To: Alice Benefiel
Subject: [New Leader June]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.



Before this membership year finishes in late September, all members should renew so they can participate in Girl Scout events and activities with their troop, service unit or family.

By renewing your troop during the Early Bird period, you know they'll be ready to participate in rescheduled events and activities as soon as it is safe to do so.

Plus, renewing with troop funds that the girls worked hard to earn, means she gets to enjoy Girl Scouts for another year! Whether she remains in a troop or chooses to enjoy the Juliette (individual girl) experience, families should not worry about purchasing a membership.

Remember, leader membership fees are also payable with troop funds. We appreciate your support and look forward to even greater Girl Scout experiences in the fall!

[**RENEW NOW**](#)

Checking in- How are you doing?



So much has happened in the past few months. Though some things may never be quite the same again, Girl Scouts is still here supporting girls and advocating for their growth. We are able to do this because our volunteers like you, but we know life is tough now and much different from when you volunteered to be a leader.

Tell us how we can help! We are here for you and want to learn how we can support you, even if that means you need to step away from being a Girl Scout leader. All leaders who complete the Leader Survival 2020 survey will receive a free patch, and be entered into a random drawing to win one of three \$50 Target gift cards!

We're here for you.

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

Grow Your Troop



We're grateful to all the troops that participated in the Grow Your Troop Initiative in January and February. You opened your hearts and troops to allow even more girls the opportunity to be a Girl Scout.

We need to know if your troop participated in this initiative, so we can enter you into the drawing. Please complete the [Grow Your Troop form](#) by Monday, June 22. There are prize drawings for troops that added 1, 4 and 6+ girls. We will select winners on Tuesday, June 23.

[COMPLETE THE FORM](#)



When Can My Troop Meet Again

While many of our communities are beginning to lift restrictions, for now, GSWCF's COVID guidelines remain the same to ensure the safety of our girls and volunteers.

Girl Scouts of the USA is working on updated guidelines to help troops get back together safely and experience all the fun of the program we know and love.

We know its hard, and our girls and leaders really miss being together (we miss seeing you, too!).

For the most up to date information, continue to [check our blog](#).

Fall Troop Camping and Encampments - Update

As there is still so much uncertainty surrounding how soon we can safely have activities on our camp properties, we have some key updates to our scheduling plan for troop camping reservations and updates to existing reservations.

- **Troop Camping** - This is the biggest change. Reservations for fall will be postponed to August 3 (they were previously scheduled to open on June 16.)
- **Service Unit Encampments** - At this time, there is no change to existing reservations for the fall and beyond. As we get closer to September, we will reevaluate the situation and make a determination on what is safe and reasonable to have at camp. We will be sure to communicate with any affected service units well in advance.
- **Challenge Course and Equestrian Programs** - The request process for these programs, which is currently underway, will finish as scheduled. As event dates draw nearer we will be able to confirm whether we can move forward as planned.

Look for more communications in the coming months. If you have any questions, please contact [Evan Krueger](#), Director of Outdoor Program.

Trip and Travel Plans- Graduating

As a reminder, GSUSA is requesting all trips for Girl Scouts be rescheduled. It is unfortunate, but we know a safe measure in compliance with ongoing federal and CDC safety guidelines.

If your troop or your girl had to cancel a Girl Scout extended trip planned for spring/summer 2020 please review the following information.

Girl Scouts in twelfth grade will be allowed a one-time extension to use the money-earned funds to reschedule these cancelled trips into the next membership year (the recommendation is to postpone until next spring break or summer and have a "reunion" trip). The new deadline to use the funds will be Aug. 31, 2021. Troop should follow all procedures for disbanding troops by Aug. 31, 2021, including financial reconciliation and closing bank account.

All participants must have a current membership at the time of the trip. Graduating girl members can take advantage of the "young alum" discount by purchasing a Lifetime Membership or purchase an adult annual membership for the 2020-2021 membership year. Adults working with the young alums must also have active membership.

All activities and use of funds must be directly tied to the mission of Girl Scouts and be permitted Girl Scout activities by your council. All funds "must be used for the purposes of Girl Scouting." (Ownership of Assets Policy, Blue Book p. 22).

Troop Finances- Planning for next year.

Your troop may have been planning to take a trip, hold a party or visit one of the many nearby theme parks to celebrate the ending of a great Girl Scout year. Now, circumstances have changed and your troop is unable to get together, which means you probably have funds remaining in your troop bank account. That's okay. As always, the first step should be using the funds to renew troop memberships to ensure the girls will be able to continue with their Girl Scout experience next year.

Troops will still need to submit a troop finance report to their service unit and explain how they will use funds in the future. We will not have a minimum account carry over this year due to the impact of COVID-19. Please speak to your service unit manager of accounting coordinator to learn when finance reports are due.



Events

World Oceans Day - June 6 at 11 a.m.

Celebrate World Oceans Day by learning why water is important, what a watershed is and see a demonstration of how it works. Keep Pinellas Beautiful will explain marine debris, including micro plastics, and how we can protect our oceans starting right here in Tampa Bay! Girls will receive a patch in the mail upon completion. This event is for all grade levels open to Girl Scout families and friends.

[Register Now>>](#)

Awesome Girls: Living Our Faith in Uncertain Times- June 4 at 6:45 p.m.

Join leaders of diverse faiths for a free webinar to learn how different religions are responding to COVID-19 and how your faith can support and help you serve others. We'll also cover ways that Girl Scouts supports girls' faith as part of their leadership journey.

This event is for girls in 6th through 12th grades (or older) and their families.

[Register Now>>](#)

2020 GS Cookie Program Wrap Up



2020 Cookie Program

The 2020 Girl Scout Cookie Program wrapped up on March 8. We wish to thank the many girls, parents, and cookie volunteers for the hard work that they put in for this cookie season.

Here are some quick statistics:

- Packages sold by troops – 2,034,710 packages
- Troop proceeds retained - \$1,707,600
- Girls Selling – 9,413
- Troops Selling – 1,086
- Per girl average (selling) – 216
- Council Gift of Caring cookies donated – 46,848 packages
- Home Town Hero Cookies donated – 14,160 packages
- Service Unit Bonus earned: \$101,735.50

Cookie Rewards

Troops should have received the girl's cookie rewards from the Service Unit Cookie Mangers. Below is the status of the remaining cookie rewards:

- **Cookie Techie patches** are being mailed directly to girls and should be received by June 6.
- **Council Dough** is also being mailed directly to girls based on addresses in our membership system. Due to the COVID-19 shutdown, there was a delay in the printing and mailing. We are now in the process of mailing council dough and girls should be receiving their earnings from now through mid-

June.

- **LEGOLAND & Adventure Island** experiences are still being determined. The product department is working with LEGOLAND and Adventure Island on alternate ticketing options. Girls/parents who earned this reward will be emailed directly with updates.
- **GS Uniform Certificate** will be received in the mail by mid-June.
- **S'mores Club!** Congratulations to the 115 girls and 42 troop product volunteers who met the requirements for the S'mores Club. Those who earned this honor will be receiving their S'mores club bracelet and patch in the mail soon after receive the custom bracelets from the vendor. We expect bracelets to arrive by mid-June.

Special Scholarship Opportunity

The Tampa Post Society of American Military Engineers has a scholarship available for qualified students in engineering or architectural programs.

Scholarships are open to high school seniors with a demonstrated interest in engineering or architecture, AND college students who are currently enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited engineering or architecture curriculum.

The application deadline is June 15.

[Apply Now »](#)

Adult Learning News

gsLearn is here!

Introducing our new learning management system where all Girl Scout Adult Learning will start! Within gsLearn, you can register for on-demand webinars, live streamed training events and in-person training. You will find gsLearn under the

MyGS tab of our website.

After you log in to gsLearn, check out the "Content Library" to see all the trainings available. (Note: The in-person training schedule for the new school year will be posted by the end of July.)

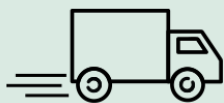
Adult Awards:

Due to issues related to COVID-19, it has been decided that the Adult Awards Ceremony will not take place this membership year, but special celebrations for awardees and honorees will! More info to come soon.

[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

SUPER SATURDAY STUFF THE BAG!

Talk about using your resources wisely! Purchase refillable tote bags and fill it with everything you need and save 15% on everything including the bag! Offer good only for pre-orders and curbside pickup on Saturday, July 18 at our Tampa

Store from 9-1 pm or Camp Wildwood Store from 12/noon-3 pm (excludes clearance items). *Pre-order by Wednesday, July 15 for Tampa and Saturday, July 11 for Wildwood*

Watch for Lots of New Items Coming Soon! Including new badges!

[Leader Gear](#) Check out all the latest gear for Girl Scout Leaders including our new leaders t-shirt. Did you know that you could order a Personalized Official Name Badge through your local Girl Scout shop to wear at Girl Scout events? **[Email](#)** or call the Tampa Girl Scout Store for details.

Summer Hours at the Girl Scout Store

Both the Tampa and Wildwood Girl Scout Stores will be opening for in-store shopping by appointment only after June 16. There will be safety protocols in place* (see below) to ensure a safe shopping experience for customers and staff. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

Note: The Saturday Shops at the Camp Dorothy Thomas and Camp Wai Lani trading posts are closed until further notice.

Tampa Store

Tuesday– Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.*

Closed: Saturday - Monday

Curbside pickup available

Please call 813-262-1793 or email us gssstore@gswcf.org to make an appointment or to place order for curbside pickup.

Camp Wildwood Store

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.*

Closed: Sunday - Friday

Curbside pickup available

Please call 813-262-1790 or email wildwoodstore@gswcf.org to make an appointment or to place order for curbside pickup on Saturday only.

**Please Note the following guidelines for in-store shopping at the Girl Scout Stores:*

- *In store shopping is available by appointment only and must be scheduled in advance.*

- *Only one customer may be in the store at a time (no children or other guests allowed).*
- *All customers and retail staff are required to wear face masks while in the store.*

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



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

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