

From: Girl Scouts of West Central Florida, Inc. <Girlscoutswcf@email.girlscouts.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 1:35 PM
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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Early Bird Finished Strong Thanks To You!



Flora Flamingo would like to say thank you and job well done as we come to an end of our spring member renewal campaign. A little over 6,000 girls are ready to continue their Girl Scout experience in 2021 and more than 3,300 volunteers are joining in making sure that experience is incredible!

And as Flora says so long until next year, she would like to congratulate the following winners!

The top three SUs and winners of \$200 are:

- SU 605 Circle of Springs
- SU616 Lakeland Guiding Lights
- SU651 PALS

Grand Prize troop winner of Walt Disney World tickets:

Troop 50502 from SU636 Silver Forest

Per county winners of \$40 gift cards to Walmart:

- Citrus: Troop 14212, SU 655
- Hernando: Troop 20162, SU 635
- Hillsborough: Troop 32332, SU 608
- Marion: Troop 43625, SU 632
- Pasco: Troop 50117, SU 622
- Pinellas: Troop 61116, SU 646
- Polk: Troop 74901, SU 615
- Sumter: Troop 80251, SU 629

Service Unit Manager winner of a prize valued at \$345

- SU 628 Cypress Ridge, Jeanne Smith

Congratulations everyone for a job well done!

RENEW NOW

Returning to In-Person Troop Meetings and Activities

Edition date: 7/23/2020

This guidance is being provided as of the edition date above. Girl Scouts of West Central Florida may modify this guidance as circumstances change.

GSWCF has heard from many of you that you are concerned about the social and emotional health of your Girl Scouts. You've shared that families see the important role Girl Scouts can play in wellness and resiliency during this traumatic time. Many have shared that you are willing to follow strict guidelines to maximize safety and minimize risk for COVID spread, while allowing for in-person troop meetings and activities. **Virtual meetings and activities remain the safest way to prevent COVID-19**, which is an extremely contagious virus that spreads easily in the community.

Beginning August 4, **troop leaders may collaborate with families to decide whether they are comfortable with hosting small, in-person troop events.** Any troop that begins to meet in person must adhere to the [COVID-19 In-Person Meeting Guidelines](#), which include the following requirements:

- All adults and girls must complete designated COVID waivers available on [MyGS](#) (after August 4)
- Troop leaders must retain waivers with health history forms for one year
- Troop events must not exceed a max of 8 girls and 2 unrelated adults per meeting with documented attendance records
- Troop events should be outdoors (unless that is not possible due to rain)

- All attendees must maintain social distance of 6 feet and wear cloth masks (unless a health challenge prohibits a mask)
- No troop will meet in gyms or physical fitness locations, unless a separate community room is available
- Volunteers must inspect and follow cleaning protocols in advance and post troop meeting
- Individual parents/caregivers must drop off and pick up their own girls from meeting – no carpooling
- One First Aid/CPR certified adult must be available if meeting in public spaces such as parks, libraries, etc. that are not listed officially as the troop meeting location

The full guidelines and safety protocols will be shared with all active members and families on August 4 when we distribute the monthly **Leader and Parent eNewsletters**.

Troop Meetings at Private Residences Now Permitted

With limited access to schools, churches, community centers and other facilities, volunteers face challenges to locating safe and inexpensive locations for troop gatherings. To help ease this burden, GSWCF is permitting troops to meet at private residences beginning after August 4, as long as they adhere to the following guidelines:

- **Troops must follow [COVID guidelines](#)** to include facilitating the event outdoors
- Each person attending must have a signed COVID waiver available on [MyGS](#) (after August 4)
- Each volunteer hosting meetings in their home must have a *Residential Meeting Agreement* on file and follow all standard safety ratios and requirements for leading a troop
- Leaders can now select "residence" when submitting their annual [troop update form](#) (starting August 1, see more info below)
- Meeting at a residence is considered the primary meeting location and will not require a first aid/CPR trained adult

If you have additional questions, please contact your community membership manager.

Suggestions for Large Troops & Service Unit Events

For larger troops and service units, the current maximum meeting or activity

attendance is firm: **8 girls and 2 unrelated volunteers**. Large troops consisting of more than eight girls may continue with their current size, but must make plans to break into smaller groups to host in-person meetings or activities. Consider: grade-level groups (for multi-level troops), patrols, or other segments of girls based on interest or convenience.

Below are some ideas for troops with more than 10 members who choose to follow the COVID guidelines and host in-person meetings or activities:

- Groups of 10 meet at two different times (e.g., Daisies at 4 p.m. and Brownies at 5:15 p.m.)
- Groups of 10 meet at more than one location or residence(s)
- Stagger restroom use to avoid overlap
- Stagger two (or more) small groups across a distance that is at least 50 feet apart (i.e., slightly less than the distance between bases on a Little League baseball field); Example: one group is in the front yard and the other is in the backyard.

To help meet the needs of troops during this exceptional time, **GSWCF will allow a troop to have three background screened adults** to ensure safety ratios when a large troop has split into two small groups on the same premises. For example, 16 girls split into two groups could have three background-screened adults, instead of the normally required four adults, so they can meet at the same time and location while remaining 50' apart. One adult can work with each group while the third adult serves as the safety ratio volunteer who supports both groups. The adult would be **required to keep both troops within their line of sight at all times** and ensure the troops meet the 50' distancing rule between groups of 10. It is important that this third volunteer is able to respond in an emergency, while continuing to watch both groups safely and effectively.

Remember – Troop Meetings are Girl-led

While we have these critical safety guidelines, it will be important to remind troop volunteers that this is a “girl-led” experience. Thus, all troop helpers who will be hosting troop meetings or leading activities should complete the "Let's Be Girl-Led" webinar to equip them for working with the troop.

We know this is a difficult time for families, and especially – our girls. That's why we are working on a number of resources to support **virtual meetings and at-home experiences** so that you can continue to connect girls, even when in-person activities are not safe. But we understand that this risk varies across our geographic footprint spanning eight counties, and we want to offer options to help

our troop leaders and families navigate their different comfort levels for in-person activities.

All troops should monitor local restrictions for small gatherings. Restrictions vary greatly from county to county, and even from town to town--and frequently change. If your area is more restrictive, you must follow the local requirements.

COVID Guidelines

Earn A Patch By Updating Your Troop Information!



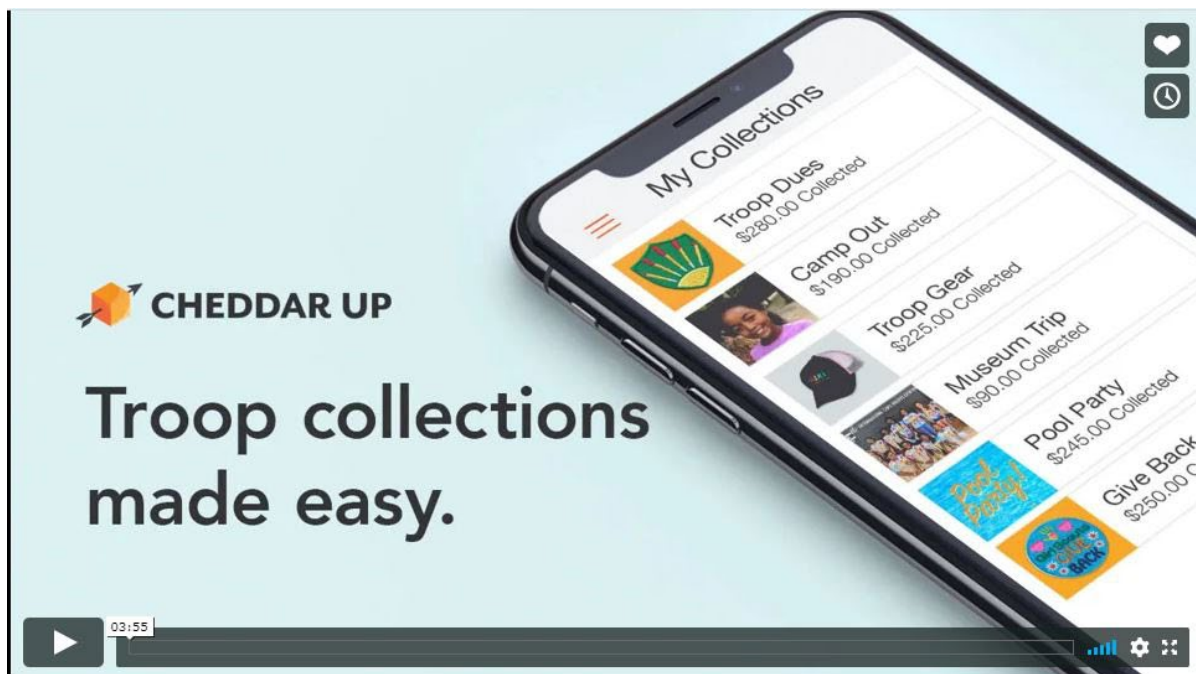
Whether your troop is open to new girls or doing well with the members you have, we want to be sure our records regarding your troop information (meeting time, location, day, program level, etc.) are correct. We know much is uncertain right now, but we'd like to ensure that when troops begin meeting again next month (whether virtually, [in-person](#) or a combination of both), our opportunity catalog is

up to date.

Updating your troop information is easy! [Complete the troop update form](#) (available August 1) with as much information about your troop meetings as possible. Let us know if you're meeting virtually right now and/or where you'll be meeting in-person (when it's safe to do so).

Plus! Every troop that uses the form and updates their information will receive 2 FREE adult patches. (Distributed beginning September 7).

Cheddar Up



We are excited to announce we are partnering with [Cheddar Up](#) to offer our volunteers an easier way to collect payments and forms. An email will be sent out in the next couple months inviting volunteers to sign up for Cheddar Up. There is no fee to join and no commitment if they try it and don't love – but we're pretty sure they'll love it. Before we get that point, though, we wanted to give you a sneak peek at what to expect. The video below will be included in the troop leader

newsletter after the emails go out. It provides an overview of what Cheddar Up is all about. In addition, we are working with Cheddar Up to host webinars to help introduce volunteers to the system. Watch [this video](#) to find out what the fuss is all about.

Share with: Service unit team

Contact: [Sarah Abels](#), 813-281-4475

Adult Learning News

gsLearn moment – what is a Learning Path?

Learning Paths are found in the Content Library in gsLearn. They are a set of courses that build skills in specific areas. Right now we have a Learning Path for:

- The Volunteer Toolkit
- How to Tie Knots
- In-Person Outdoor Skills
- Video Outdoor Skill Refreshers (GSUSA content)
- New Leader Training
- Service Team Training

Once you complete a Learning Path, you can go into the "Achievements" tab and print your certificate of completion, listing all the courses you have taken and completed.

New Content in gsLearn for Service Units: There are 4 new on-demand webinars available in the content library for service team members. Check them out!

- GSUSA Service Unit Training – Developing & Growing the SU Team
- Effective Management
- Goal Setting & Planning
- Leading Effective Digital Meetings.

If you cannot find them in your content library, please email

AdultLearning@gswcf.org.

Reminder: gsLearn is found in the [MyGS](#) tab.

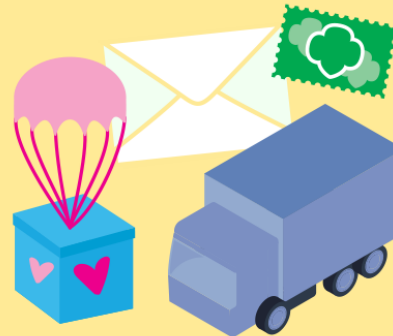
[More Trainings](#)

Girl Scout Store News

We've got you covered.

Shop from the comfort of home with **free standard shipping on all [girlscoutshop.com](https://www.girlscoutshop.com) orders, no minimum.**

[SHOP NOW](#)



Update: Shipping from the Tampa Girl Scout Store

We have updated our shipping process for orders placed via phone or email through the [Tampa Girl Scout Store](#). All orders of \$75* or more will be shipped FREE. Any orders under \$75* will be shipped in a flat rate box (\$8-\$15). Flat rate to be determined at the time of payment, prices vary depending on size of box needed for shipping. Remember you can always schedule curbside pick-up for your orders at both the Tampa and Wildwood stores, or schedule in-store shopping appointments at both locations. Please see hours of operation for full details.

Also, you will continue to receive FREE shipping on all orders placed directly

through the online [Girl Scout Shop](#) until September 30.

*Total order before tax.

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.

Explore the Girl Scout Store on Facebook Live!

Explore the Girl Scout Store with Chelsea on [Facebook](#) every Thursday at 6 p.m. Join us for trivia, prizes, exclusive discounts and more!!

[Tampa Store](#) - Curbside pickup or In-Store shopping by appointment

Tuesday– Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.*

Closed: Saturday - Monday

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

[Camp Wildwood Store](#) - Curbside pickup or In-Store shopping by appointment

Saturday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

Closed: Sunday - Friday

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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Our address is 4610 Eisenhower Blvd., Tampa, FL 33634

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