

March 4, 2020

Good Afternoon Members of GSHH,

All of you are aware that the US is preparing for an outbreak of the Coronavirus that has plagued many countries across the globe. While we have just begun to see cases in the NYC and Westchester County area, we have been monitoring the situation closely. We are taking steps to establish an infectious disease response plan that we will implement to do what we can to minimize the impact on GSHH girls, volunteers, members and staff. We all have responsibility in this response, and I want to outline what you can do right now as we finalize plans to address any outbreak in our region.

The current health authorities' guidance does not include closures or cancellations of activities, however we will continue to assess the situation and make appropriate adjustments as necessary. As always, decisions regarding participation in Girl Scout activities, are up to the discretion of parents and guardians.

We are continuing to operate as usual, but are working on contingency plans to be prepared for changing circumstances. We have been looking to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the New York Department of Health (NYDOH) so we can respond to any changes in their recommendations.

Based on CDC and NYDOH guidelines the following can help prevent the spread of infection:

Prevent the spread – key actions:

- Regularly wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water
- Stay at home if you feel ill. Here is a list of symptoms for the coronavirus - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/symptoms.html>
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Regularly disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects

We will continue to communicate regarding steps we are taking and any adjustments we are making to scheduled programs, etc.

Please always check our website for the most up to date information. Attached please find FAQ's with regards to the Coronavirus and GSHH.

We are here to support our members and please do not hesitate to contact Customer Care at CustomerCare@girlscoutshh.org if you have any further questions.

Thank you

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Marie Reger
CEO

What is Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson doing in response to the coronavirus?

GSHH is monitoring the situation closely. Based on public health authorities' current guidance we are operating as usual but also working on contingency plans for programming and other events to be prepared for changing circumstances. We are actively following the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the NY Dept. of Health, so we can respond quickly to any shifts in their recommendations.

Will you be cancelling any programs?

Public health authorities' current guidance does not include closures or cancellations of functions such as the program events that are scheduled across our council. As always, decisions regarding participation in Girl Scout activities, are up to the discretion of parents and guardians. While we are operating as usual, we are also working on contingency plans for programming and other events to be prepared for changing circumstances.

How much notice will you give if you cancel any programs? Will we receive full refunds?

As always, if programs or events need to be cancelled, registered participants will receive refunds. Due to the evolving nature of this situation, cancellations may have to be made with short notice, for instance in the case of a Public Health directive. We will do our best to contact all those affected as quickly as possible.

What steps can girls and volunteers take to prevent the spread of coronavirus?

Please follow all of the steps recommended by the CDC (see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>). The same simple steps that prevent the spread of ordinary flu viruses work against coronavirus and other illnesses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cough into a tissue or your elbow (not your hand). Then throw tissue away and wash hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.

- Stay home when you are sick, with temperature above 100.0 F (38.7 C) or do not feel well, appear weak or ill
- Consult your health care provider if you have special health conditions that put you at increased risk