



March 26, 2020

Dear Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson Family,

Good Afternoon, first and foremost I hope that you and your families are safe and healthy during this difficult time.

I know that over the past two weeks most of our lives have been turned completely upside down. I know that mine has! We have appreciated your patience with us as we have tried to work through so many changes within a short period of time. Council staff have been working remotely and are encountering similar challenges as many of you. In the snap of an instant we became homeschool teachers, and we might have a new set of co-workers, whether they are our kids, spouses or pets. I like many of you, have all three.

We have been working on alternative delivery methods so we can continue to provide programs via Facebook or Video. We are trying to connect with Service Units and Troop Leaders to support our volunteers, who are the lifeblood of our Council. We have been looking for activities for you to do with your girls to help keep them occupied and give them a sense of continuity and stability in this upside down world we are living in. In true Girl Scout fashion many of them have found ways to help others. Our adult volunteers have also jumped into action by sewing masks and finding ways to donate to our First Responders. They have also been finding ways to engage with the girls in their troops, by using technology tools like Zoom to host their troop meetings. Please remember that with all the disruption in girls' lives right now Girl Scouts can remain present- Girl Scouts is not cancelled. We are agile, creative and committed to offering all girls a Girl Scout experience.

We are working on rescheduling our Council led programs that were scheduled through the month of April. We will be reaching out to registrants of those programs to work out the details with them.

The volunteer engagement team is working on scheduling additional virtual trainings for the upcoming month as well.

I know a big question on many people's minds is "what about cookies"? This has been a big question for us as well. We have come up with a tentative new timeline for the remainder of

the cookie season, but I would caution you that it is very tentative as the situation is fluid. We will post the new timeline to our website ASAP. We will be extending the sale and delaying the ACH payment due dates. We are also working closely with the Baker regarding the deliveries of the initial orders.

The most pressing question for many of you and for us has been the issue of the cookie inventory. I want to assure you that **we are not** going to let troops be responsible for the cookies that they ordered for booth sales which were then cancelled due to the COVID-19 health crisis. We are still working out the details of how it will work, but some of the plans will be coming out shortly. We are also working on a way to reduce the outstanding cookie inventory. **We are here to help and we are in this with you.**

As we go through this unprecedented time in history, we have a tremendous opportunity... we have the opportunity to stop for a minute. We can take a pause... at a time when we are more reliant than ever on technology to keep us connected, we can pause and reconnect with ourselves. We can go outside and be reminded of what a truly wonderful world we live in; we can look around us and have a moment of gratitude for all that we have. We can maybe take a walk during the day, or as we are homeschooling, maybe we take a few extra minutes for recess in the backyard. We can reconnect with those we love – especially ourselves. So often we have so much to do and so many items on the list to cross off, we don't see the beauty that is truly all around us.

It is in times like this that I turn to the Promise and Law... we are courageous and strong, we are responsible for what we say and do, and together, we will get through this stronger and wiser. Thank you all for your leadership and commitment to our vision and mission!

Yours in Girl Scouting,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marie Reger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marie Reger and the entire team at GSHH