



July 13, 2020

Dear Volunteers, Parents and Members,

Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson (GSHH) will continue the suspension of **ALL** in-person Girl Scout activities, indoor or outdoor including those sponsored by the council, service units and troops through **August 15, 2020**. No in person troop meetings, gatherings, planned activities, events or trips are permitted for girls and volunteers during this time and until further notice.

This regulation is being provided to you as of the date of this document (when a vaccine has not been made readily available). GSHH may modify this guidance, from time to time, as circumstances change. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious virus that spreads easily in the community. We believe that it's necessary to take all reasonable precautions to limit potential exposure for girls, volunteers, and families. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to change as infection rates rise and fall in different areas. We continue to follow real-time local and national directives.

We will continue to monitor the guidelines from NYS and the CDC to ensure the health and safety of all our members. We also utilize the guidance from GSUSA specifically for COVID-19. We will continue to keep you updated on the progress we are making towards re-opening on our website and the *Headlines and Happenings* weekly publication.

If the offices remain closed, how do I contact a staff person?

The GSHH Team of Staff will continue to work remotely to provide support to Girls, Volunteers and Parents. You are able to contact Customer Care at customercare@girlscoutshh.org or by calling **1-855-232-GSHH (4744)**.

Does GSHH have programs or trainings happening now?

We continue to provide Virtual Summer Program Activities and learning opportunities for adults and we will maintain ongoing contact with our volunteers and parents. Girl Scouts are encouraged to take advantage of our virtual programs and learning opportunities, which are available on our website. www.girlscoutshh.org

When do you think GSHH will be able to open the council office and hold in person events?

We continue to review the guidelines from NYS and the CDC on a daily basis. We know that our seven counties are grouped in the NYS Hudson Region which entered Phase 4 on July 7th which allows higher education, low risk outdoor activities and low risk indoor activities. As we have from the beginning of COVID-19, we will assess what is best for the council and determine how we will proceed.

What if I want to meet with my Troop?

We encourage you to plan a virtual meeting with your Girl Scouts. Some Troop Leaders have been meeting using various virtual platforms. If you need support and guidance, please contact your Membership Manager. They are ready to provide support or co-facilitate the virtual troop session.

What if I want to give the girls their patches, badges or place an order from the shop?

The GSHH online shop has been processing orders for leaders who need items for now and in preparation for bridging recognitions and the new year. We encourage you to mail or use curbside contactless drop off to deliver girl incentives and recognitions.

Will GSHH be offering curbside pickup for retail soon?

Yes, GSHH will be offering curbside pickup from our retail locations soon. Please check our website and Headlines and Happenings for more info.

What if I have a trip planned, can I proceed with travel?

Travel and overnight stays are prohibited through August 31, 2020. This date will be reviewed and extended as needed.

What if I decide to hold an in-person activity that I feel is safe prior to the date when GSHH approves?

Girl Scout liability insurance will NOT cover activities that are not approved by council and take place prior to the lifting of the suspension. If you hold an unsanctioned event, you are liable for any injuries to persons or property that might occur at that activity.

When can I begin to make property reservations?

We are working on a calendar and further communication that will be sent to our volunteers during the month of August. We remain hopeful that we can return to some normality with the necessary safety measures in place.

Yours in Girl Scouting,



Marie Reger
CEO
Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc.