



## **A Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update for Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri Members**

Dear Girl Scout families and volunteers,

At Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri, the health and well-being of our members, staff and extended Girl Scout family is our top priority. While what health officials know about coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to develop, we do know that verified cases across the country have been increasing. **It is with an abundance of caution that beginning Monday, March 16, we are suspending all Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri activities, programs, meetings, trainings and property reservations until March 31.**

Our Council is taking these steps to minimize exposure to COVID-19 and its spread while doing our best to continue to provide a quality Girl Scout experience. Mission-critical business will continue as planned (as of now, our office will remain open) and know that we are here for you!

### **What does this mean for our Girl Scouts?**

- All school recruitment and program activities are suspended. This includes things like camp, troop meetings, trainings and district/neighborhood meetings.
- All meetings with external visitors at our Service Center and Program Center are suspended.
- Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri Shop will be closed to external visitors. Shop

hours will be 10am-5pm. Customers will be able to place orders by phone (314.592.2378) or email ([gsemshopanderc@girlscoutsem.org](mailto:gsemshopanderc@girlscoutsem.org)).

- We are suspending all Girl Scout facility rentals.
- Representative Assembly (our annual meeting) and Volunteer Recognitions is postponed until July 11.
- Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri will initiate a 50/50 program for staff, effective Monday, March 16. Each employee will spend 50% of their time in the office and 50% working from home.
- Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri will create “surprise and delight” moments to keep our Girl Scouts engaged by designing program activities that can be completed at home or online.
- Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri will provide operational updates on its website and Facebook, as needed.
- If you or your girl(s) are registered for a program, you will be contacted by the appropriate team member to discuss participation options. If you have further questions, please contact our Answer Center at 314.400.4600.

As always, the health, safety and well-being of our members, staff and extended Girl Scout family is of paramount concern. We will continue to carefully monitor this quickly evolving situation and are here to assist our members.

For additional information about COVID-19, visit the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov). The CDC has also put together this helpful [handout](#) on what you can do to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

As Girl Scouts we take pride in being prepared, and we know that begins with each of us as leaders. Our hearts go out to all who have been affected by COVID-19—together we will successfully navigate this situation. Thank you for your support, and please do not hesitate to contact our Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri team with any questions.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Barczykowski  
CEO, Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri