



## Keeping You Updated During COVID-19

To our Girl Scouts, families, volunteers and supporters,

**We hope you and yours are staying healthy and safe during these uncertain times.**

Given the continually evolving situation with COVID-19, we sincerely appreciate your flexibility as we navigate this new reality together. At Girl Scouts, we are taking proactive measures to help protect both your safety and the future of Girl Scouting in our region.

Following guidelines set forth by [St. Louis County](#), **we are canceling all programs through May 31 and issuing refunds to participants** due to the COVID-19 pandemic and required social distancing. **We ask that you support our program cancellation decision and suspend all of your Girl Scout activities** including camp, troop meetings, trainings, and district/neighborhood meetings through May 31. This cancellation includes school recruitment activities and facility rentals.

Also, in the interest of member and community safety, we are canceling April Showers, our annual personal care item drive. We will **announce a decision about rescheduling April Showers in early-May**. At this time, **we are continuing plans for Day and Resident Camp** and will make a decision on May 1. Because of the unique circumstances we are in, tier one resident camp pricing will be extended through the summer 2020 season. We will be contacting Girl

Scouts who earned Cookie Coupons next week by email. Our **Answer Center is working remotely** to help answer any questions you may have. The Answer Center is available during regular business hours at [answercenter@girlscoutsem.org](mailto:answercenter@girlscoutsem.org).

We want to stay connected with you and recently launched [Girl Scouting from Home](#), an online, free resource curated to meet the evolving needs of our young dreamers, doers and innovators in this unprecedented time. With Girl Scouting from Home, girls can try out new, fun age-specific activities all while remaining uniquely connected to their sister Girl Scouts. Now more than ever, girls will benefit from programming designed specifically with them in mind by experts.

Like so many organizations in our community, we are faced with making difficult decisions. With the temporary closure of our camps and facilities, the required social distancing and program cancellations, our Council is temporarily furloughing 65-percent of its staff, effective April 13. The Executive Team is also voluntarily taking pay cuts.

Our thoughts are with our valued employees and their families. All furloughed employees who are currently enrolled in the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri benefits plan will continue to receive full health benefits and may apply for applicable state unemployment benefits.

We remain optimistic about our collective future and believe these short-term measures will provide long-term benefits for our Girl Scouts, staff and community. We look forward to personally engaging with our girls and resuming our vital in-person programs that are a hallmark of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

**We are in this together, and together, we will power through. We will continue to post weekly updates on our website and [have included an FAQ](#).**

We are grateful for your support!