



**Girl Scouts of Central Maryland**

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Hello Girl Scout families,

These are unprecedented times. There are no clear and easy answers to the many questions swirling around COVID-19. I wanted you to know that Girl Scouts of Central Maryland has been monitoring the impact of the virus closely for the past several weeks to inform our way of work.

We want to assure you that the health and safety of our members and their families is a top priority. We are monitoring care and safety protocols that are issued by government health departments in this evolving situation so that we are in line with those protocols. I have personally been in contact with health officials, been in consultation with our national organization, received guidance from GSUSA and continually monitor the evolution of the status of the virus.

We are taking additional precautions in our office to ensure that our building and our staff are safe by: ensuring the level of cleaning in our building is appropriate and targeted at high use areas, in addition we have added resources like hand sanitizer and anti-bacterial spray for employees and visitors to the council.

It is very important for employees, volunteers and program providers to stay home and not interact with our girls if they are not feeling well. These decisions are informed by guidance from the CDC, Governor Hogan and the Maryland Department of Health. Self-care is essential.

We encourage everyone to stay calm and continue to use good hygiene and hand washing practices. To assist you with some basic dos and don'ts when it comes to handling this subject with care, I have also attached a blog article from GSUSA about the Coronavirus in hopes that it will assist you as you navigate how to talk with your girls about COVID-19.

As we make day to day decisions we will continue to follow the lead of the federal, state and local government officials. We will also follow their lead as we evaluate the status of each program on a weekly basis. At this time, we have made the following decisions regarding this weekend's activities:

- **Gold Award Banquet:** The banquet will be postponed. This program is held in a hall that requires individuals to be within close proximity and includes individuals of various ages, some of which are more susceptible to the COVID-19. For those reasons, the banquet will be re-scheduled to June. The date will be provided only to those girls and families who were slated to attend this weekend, or were invited to attend as members of the Gold Award Class of 2020.



Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place.

- **P.A. Training/Brownie Day:** This program will be cancelled. We will offer another program during the summer months, which will be listed on our events calendar. This event was cancelled because it was scheduled to be held indoors, would require participants to be in close proximity each other, and require mixing between levels, which has been discouraged by the White House.
- **Take Your Best Sling-Shot:** This program will **NOT** be cancelled. While the program may result in mixing of various levels, this program is held outdoors in an open area that permits ample space to be maintained between participants. Added precautions will be taken, such as extra hand-washing and cleaning of equipment.

We apologize for any inconvenience and disappointment that may arise as the status of programs and events are review, but please know that we are working diligently to balance health and safety concerns with the benefits that our girls derive from programs. Thank you for all that you are doing to ensure that are girls are calm, safe and healthy.

Very truly yours,



Jennifer M. Herring  
Youth Program Development Manager