

March 13, 2020, 8AM

At Girl Scouts, there is nothing we take more seriously than the safety and wellbeing of our girls, volunteers and council staff. Girl Scouts – Diamonds has been closely monitoring the COVID-19 guidelines and updates from the Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization, and the Arkansas Department of Health.

On March 12, Governor Hutchinson made the decision to close all public schools in Grant, Jefferson, Pulaski, and Saline counties through March 30 as a precautionary measure related to the containment of the Covid-19 virus.

Based on this initial two-week closing of these schools, effective immediately, Girl Scouts – Diamonds is canceling all council-sponsored programs, activities and trainings through March 30. We will assess once a week any events planned after that time and post updates and cancellations on the website. As we become aware of Program Partner-sponsored event cancellations, we will post those as well.

If you have not already registered for summer camp and are considering it, we encourage you to go ahead and register in order to reserve a spot.

Please know that we will offer full refunds for any event/activity/camp session that is canceled. We do ask for your patience, as an increase in refund activity may take additional time to process.

What about our local troop and service unit events?

We know many of you are anxious about meetings, events, etc. When faced with making a decision for your Girl Scout community, whether your troop or service unit, we recommend following the guidelines from the CDC and the Arkansas Department of Health. Given that we serve 79 counties in our council, and only four currently have reported cases of COVID-19, we advise you to refer to the circumstances in your own community with guidance from your local public health officials. Please communicate within your troop and service unit, and with parents, to help decide what is right for the health and safety of your members.

What about cookies?

We know you and your girls are working hard to wrap up your cookie season and meet your goals. We want to give you every opportunity to do that and are providing some extra time and resources for you to consider.

We are making the following changes to the remainder of the 2020 Cookie Program:

Cookie Booths

If you choose, you can continue to host and schedule cookie booths throughout the rest of the season. We are currently allowing girls and their parents, along with their troop leaders, to decide if they want to continue to host scheduled booths or pursue booth opportunities in their local communities.

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Cupboards

Normal cupboard operations and hours will continue at our office locations through April 4.

Extended Cookie Deadlines

April 4-Cookie Cupboards close

April 5-Digital Cookie closes

April 6-Final girl money due to Troop Cookie Manager

April 8-Parent debt forms due to council staff

April 10-Troop final rewards due in eBudde at 11:59pm

April 10-50% of final cookie draft

April 13-Service unit final rewards due in eBudde at 11:59pm

April 24-Final cookie draft

May 11-Rewards begin shipping to service units*

*Please be aware there may be supply chain issues beyond our control that could cause potential delays.

Updates and questions:

We will continue to monitor and evaluate the ongoing impact of COVID-19, provide updates on the website and via social media and/or email when needed, and continue to follow the recommendations of the Arkansas Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ensure the health and safety of our members.

As always, please contact us at info@girlscoutsdiamonds or 800-632-6894 if you have any questions or concerns regarding specific Girl Scout activities.

What you can do:

Here are some of the steps suggested by the CDC and from our state and local public health departments:

- Wash hands frequently (for at least 20 seconds).
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- Do not hug or shake hands with people and keep an adequate “social distance” (at least 6 feet) from people in general, especially those who are sick.
- Cover sneezes and coughs with a tissue over your nose and mouth; cough into your elbow as a last resort.
- Stay home if you are not feeling well and keep your “social distance” (at least 6 feet) from family members if possible.
- Frequently clean and disinfect surfaces you touch—like your phone, computer keyboard, doorknobs, work surfaces, etc.
- Get plenty of sleep, good nutrition, stress-relief and exercise—a healthy body is the best defense against illness.
- Be a source of comfort and calm for girls.