



March 15, 2020

Dear Girl Scout Families and Volunteers,

At Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast (GSWISE), there is nothing we take more seriously than the safety and well-being of our girls, volunteers, and council staff. GSWISE will continue to take all possible and appropriate measures to ensure girls have a safe, fun, one-of-a-kind experience at Girl Scouts. And as always, we encourage all girls, families, and volunteers to follow safety and health protocols recommended by federal, state, county, and local municipalities.

While what health officials know about coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to develop, we do know that verified cases in our State and across the country have been increasing rapidly. With the recent announcement by Governor Evers mandating statewide school closures, and with additional closures here in southeastern Wisconsin (including Discovery World, Milwaukee County Zoo, etc.) we want to ensure we are working with our community to respond to and contain the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19). Therefore, in an extreme abundance of caution:

**Effective Monday, March 16, we are suspending all Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast in-person activities including girl programs and events, cookie booths, meetings, trainings, troop and other camping, and property/facilities rentals until at least Monday, April 6.**

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.

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

**GSWISE Resource Centers and Business Operations**

- All school recruitment and program activities are suspended. This includes activities like cookie booths, troop camping, troop meetings, travel, trainings and service unit meetings, activities, and events.
- All meetings with external visitors at our Service Centers and Program Centers are suspended.
- We are suspending all Girl Scout facility rentals.



- GSWISE Retail Shops will be closed to external visitors beginning Monday, March 16. Customers will be able to place orders by phone (800-565-4475) or email ([customercare@gswise.org](mailto:customercare@gswise.org).)
- If you or your girl(s) are registered for a council-sponsored program, refunds will be processed by the council. If you registered for a service unit-sponsored program, you must contact the service unit leader. If you have further questions, please contact our Customer Care team at 800-565-4475.
- This does not mean that Girl Scouting stops. We encourage you to use webinars, teleconferences and other technologies to engage girls and adults. GSWISE will create “surprise and delight” moments to keep our Girl Scouts engaged by designing program activities that can be completed at home or online.

### **The Girl Scouts Cookie Program**

Effective March 16, all Girl Scout Cookie Booths will be suspended until at least April 6.

Additional Girl Scout Cookie Program updates include:

- The Girl Scout Cookie Program will now extend until April 30 for those troops that want additional selling time.
- Cookie cupboards will be closed until at least April 6
- Upcoming ACH withdrawal (25%) on March 18 will continue as planned.
- Final ACH withdrawal (remaining amount) will be delayed until May 1.
- Options to decrease your cookie inventory:
  - Post your unsold cookies on the [Online Cookie Cupboard](#). Troops looking for cookies will be directed there and can pick up after April 6 at the earliest – before picking up from the council.
  - Sell online! All girls have the opportunity to set up an online selling account and email customers.
  - Email out to troop families what you have left and have them ask their customers if anyone needs a refill after their initial order.
  - Stay tuned for further details regarding updates to placing recognition orders and recognition pick-up.

Please remember that the best protection is self-protection and self-monitoring, especially in this flu season. The CDC has also put together this helpful [handout](#) on what you can do to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. For additional information, including resources for how you can talk to your girl about COVID-19, please review [this FAQ](#) and/or visit the links below:



- [How to Talk to Your Girl About Coronavirus](#)
  - *Help Her Be Happy and Healthy (Raising Awesome Girls Blog)* created by the Girl Scouts has also created a way to talk to girls not by avoiding the topic, but by tackling it head-on.
- [Wisconsin Department of Health Services - Coronavirus](#)
- [Milwaukee, Waukesha, Racine , Kenosha , Washington, Ozaukee, Walworth County Websites](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control - Coronavirus](#)
- [World Health Organization - Coronavirus](#)

Our hearts go out to all who have been affected by COVID-19—together we will successfully navigate this frequently changing landscape. Thank you for your support, and please do not hesitate to contact our Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast team by emailing [\*\*customercare@gswise.org\*\*](mailto:customercare@gswise.org), or calling 800-565-4475.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christy L. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christy L. Brown, JD  
CEO, Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast