

COVID-19 Message 3.11.20

Dear Girl Scout Members in the Heart of Pennsylvania -

Our council, our Commonwealth, our Nation, and our World are all responding to the COVID-19 coronavirus. For some, the impact has been severe, and our thoughts and prayers go out to them. For most in the Heart of Pennsylvania, it has touched us only through the media and social media as we take care to abide by the guidance released by the U. S. Centers for Disease Control, and our state and local governments. What we know, is that there will be more cases reported across the country over the coming weeks. It will be important to stay calm in the face of hyperbole, to be prepared, and to lead through this moment using the Girl Scout Promise and Law as our guide.

So, let us do our best to be:

Honest and Fair: Girl Scouts will assess any activities planned, and honestly and fairly determine the risk - with all the activities we undertake with our Girl Scouts. In particular, assess whether there are any significant underlying health risks such as heart disease or diabetes that increase risk of serious health consequences in the event of exposure;

Friendly and Helpful, and Considerate and Caring: We will strive to continue to treat everyone with dignity and respect, in particular by not abandoning any Girl Scouts who may become sick;

Courageous and Strong: Encourage our girls to speak their minds about their concerns and to voice their feelings while helping them not succumb to misinformation and fear;

Responsible for What I Say and Do: We hold ourselves accountable for the accuracy of the statements we make and for avoiding inflammatory statements that are not based upon reliable sources;

Respect myself and others: Encourage Girl Scouts to respect their own bodies by setting boundaries for shaking hands or other physical contact and by applying common sense precautions for avoiding all illnesses by staying home when sick, washing hands regularly, and avoiding travel to known areas where serious outbreaks have been reported;

Respect authority: Abide by the guidance provided by personal physicians, and state and local government authorities;

Use resources wisely: Take advantage of the opportunity to work independently and virtually on badges and journeys in the event that other activities may be

cancelled;

Make the world a better place, and Be a sister to every Girl Scout:

We will encourage everyone to keep Girl Scouting vibrant and alive while being safe. We do this every day. We can do it now.

Thank you for your membership in Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania.

Janet Donovan

RADM, JAGC, USN(Ret.)

President and Chief Executive Officer

Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania