



Dear Troop Leaders, Parents, and Guardians,

As we all face a break in normal activities and our children are no longer able to attend school, sports, and Girl Scout meetings, GSHPA wants to ensure that you have the resources you need to continue participating from your homes and while practicing social distancing. Below is a list of resources ranging from Cookie University, to badge recommendations and fun patch guides.

We hope this information will help you add structure to your children's days and continue building girls of Courage, Confidence, and Character during a challenging time. If you have any questions or would like to share resources you have come across, please let us know.

### **Long Term Planning**

Should social distancing and other precautionary policies remain in effect in the coming weeks, Troop Leaders, guardians, and parents should discuss alternative options like weekly meetings via skype or other platforms, and planning badges that girls can work on together while at home.

In the meantime, connect with troop leaders about current badges they are working on and see what you can do at home to complete the badge requirements.

### **Badges**

Check out the Award and Badge Explorer here for the requirements of the Badges that we offer through Girl Scouts: [Award and Badge Explorer](#)

*(Please note that any badges/patches earned will not be provided by GSHPA, but most can be purchased on [GSHPA's online store](#))*

- Cyber Security Badges: [https://www.gscnc.org/en/event/council\\_activities.html](https://www.gscnc.org/en/event/council_activities.html)
- Girl Coders: Be sure to check badge requirements via the link above, but these activities will be a great resource for you! <https://girlcoders.net/>
- Older girl badges: [Virtual Badges, Grades 6th-12th](#)

If you have a specific badge in mind that you would like to do with your Girl Scout at home, connect with a Volunteer Support Coordinator for resources!



## **Patches**

Fun Patches are for Girl Scouts who have participated in fun events or activities (i.e. backyard camping, jewelry making, tea parties, and more) and go on the back of their vests or sashes! Plenty of fun patch criteria can be met from the comfort of your own home; if you can think of it, there's probably a fun patch for it! Check out Pinterest for some ideas!

### **A few Fun Patches that we found:**

Be Prepared Not Scared: A resource provided by Girl Scouts of Central California South that helps Girl Scouts face Emergency Preparedness without fear. The requirements for the fun patch are included in the link below, and there are also a ton of other websites included within the patch requirements itself!

- [Be Prepared, Not Scared](#)
- [Buy the Patches Here](#)

Cabot Cheese provides seven different free patches that you can earn via their website here: [Cabot Cheese Patches](#)

Mental Health Awareness Patch: [MHA Patch](#)

Intellectual Property Patch: [IP Patch](#)

*(Patch production and distribution from outside vendors may be delayed. Please have patience with these businesses if you order patches from them at this time.)*

## **Higher Awards**

While it isn't feasible to complete an entire Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award from home, girls can brainstorm project ideas and start planning or start working on a Gold Award proposal on [GoGold](#). This is also a good time for girls to start working on the prerequisite Journeys for their Silver and Gold Awards.

As you plan, think about how your project will be sustainable and educational. These are important in distinguishing your project from a Service Project. The difference between a community service project and a Take Action/Higher Award project can be found here: [Take Action vs. Community Service](#).



Juniors and Cadettes should talk to their troop leaders before starting to plan Bronze and Silver Awards. Seniors and Ambassadors can email [mygoldaward@gshpa.org](mailto:mygoldaward@gshpa.org) with any questions related to Gold Award.

Reach out to your VSC or [visit our website](#) for more information on higher awards.

### **Service Projects**

Send some comfort to those who are struggling or continue supporting a cause that you care about, while remaining safe and practicing social distancing. Some ideas include:

- Cards and care packages for nursing homes- many nursing homes are currently closed to visitors, leaving residents feeling lonely and isolated. Your family or Girl Scout troop can coordinate with a local nursing home to send their residents well wishes. If you choose to create care packages, check with the nursing home first.
- Neighbor Assistance- Girl Scouts and parents can work together to identify neighbors who are at a high risk of infection or complications and work to make sure that they have everything they need while they are isolated at home. Girls can establish a schedule to call any elderly neighbors to see how they are doing and work with their parents to coordinate errands.
- Donate any extra nonperishable food to your local food pantry or homeless shelter.

### **Cookie Program**

Check out the Cookie University Guide from our Product Program team (sent to you via email 3/19). You can earn a cool Cookie Marketing patch and learn great business skills in the process!

Share your Digital Cookie link with friends and family! Now is a great time to sell online, make calls, and send emails to family and friends. The Girl Delivery option has been extended until April 24th, so encourage your customers to place an order! Coordinate with your Troop Leader to make sure you can get these cookies in a timely manner.

Think about asking customers who don't want cookies for themselves to buy cookies so your troop can donate them to a local hospital, police station, or post office! If your troop isn't donating - have customers use the Gift of Caring option in Digital Cookie and we'll donate them to [Soldiers' Angels](#) for you!



*GSHPA will continue to send updates as the situation evolves, and our staff are currently working remotely in order to continue supporting our members. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.*

Yours in Girl Scouting,

*Your Volunteer Support Team*