

April 15, 2020

Dear Girl Scout Family,

The safety of our girls, volunteers and staff remains our highest priority, and we have been closely monitoring the effect that COVID-19 could have on our council-led activities scheduled for the spring and summer.

This period of uncertainty and constantly changing timelines has placed us in a most difficult position, and we are grateful to have the guidance of GSUSA and sister councils across the country to advise on such big decisions. Ultimately the concerns related to health, safety, and the potential risks associated with these gatherings must be paramount. Therefore, with heavy hearts, we have decided to cancel all face-to-face Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails events through August 1, 2020, including our beloved Roar & Snore and all camp sessions at both Rancho del Chaparral and Camp Elliott Barker.

Our chief concerns center around our ability to continue with planned programming while maintaining best practices as currently mandated by the CDC, WHO, and NMDOH. Currently, gatherings are limited to no more than 5 persons, and we have no assurances that this mandate will be lifted soon.

We must make decisions that not only keep our members and staff safe, but also

those that preserve our limited resources. In order to host successful events, preparations must be made now, and with the current climate of uncertainty, we cannot expend resources in preparation while there is no assurance that current safety protocols will be lifted or modified to allow us to continue with events as planned. It is also not fair to ask our summer camp staff, who are normally recruited this time of year, to maintain their availability to work for us when we know there is a possibility we will not be able to keep them employed.

We are fortunate to have an innovative group of volunteers and staff who have been hard at work on virtual programming that will allow us to continue to build girls of courage, confidence and character in this unusual time. We hope you will read on to learn more about our plan to deliver top-notch programs right to your home throughout the summer.

We are certain you have questions, so we've done our best to answer some of the big ones below. We've also gone into more detail with many of your FAQs on our COVID-19 page [here](#).

We pledge to do all we can to ensure, once mandates are lifted, that our program offerings remain available to girls, their families, and our volunteers. We trust that all those impacted by this news will receive it with the courage, confidence, and character that only a Girl Scout possesses.

Thank you for being with us during this unprecedented time in Girl Scouting,



Rebecca Latham  
CEO

## REFUNDS

For those who registered for a residential or day camp session at Rancho del Chaparral or Camp Elliott Barker and paid with cash, check or credit card, we have three available options: full refund, credit equal to payment to be used for Summer Camp 2021, or donation to Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails.

For those who are currently registered for a council-led event such as Roar & Snore, Wolf Howl or Museum Camp-in, we will offer full refunds of fees paid or an extension of the program voucher deadline to September 30, 2020. If you have paid to register for a council-led training such as First Aid/CPR, you will be given the opportunity to apply that payment to an online training or request a refund.

Please consider our heightened volume of refund activity and exercise patience with our staff members as they work to provide this service to our parents and troops.

## **PROGRAM VOUCHERS**

We recognize that many girls may have earned program vouchers that were used to register for programs and summer camp. If you registered using any vouchers, those funds can be applied to a GSNMT program through September 30, 2020 OR as a credit towards Summer Camp 2021 (for a program/session to be determined at your summer 2021 registration). For those who planned to use their 2020 program vouchers for camp, we will honor them for the 2021 summer camp session. All vouchers set to expire April 30, 2020 have been extended to expire September 30, 2020.

## **ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMMING**

We are currently working to provide alternative methods to fulfill our promise to offer high-quality programming to our girls and volunteers. These alternatives include fun summer camp activities that can be done from home, as well as virtual activities in our focus areas of STEM, Life Skills, Entrepreneurship and Outdoors. Information on these programs will be finalized soon and updated often on both our [GSNMT online calendar](#) and [Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails Facebook page](#).

**[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS OUR FAQ'S](#)**