



# Girl Scouts of San Geronio



Dear Girl Scouts of San Geronio,

Like you, I love Girl Scouts and my Girl Scout sisters. Nothing compares to personal contact and I so miss not being able to see you, hug you and tell you how much I appreciate you. For over 100 years, Girl Scouts have demonstrated their willingness and ability to stand strong, and turn adversity into opportunity. Your Council has launched a number of positive initiatives, like Virtual Girl Scouting, that are designed to support our leaders, girls and everyone else that depends on us. If you have not accessed our “distance experiences” for both girls and adults, I invite you to take a look at our web page, [GSSGC Virtual](#).

Of necessity, some Girl Scout programs and events have been cancelled and others have been postponed or “gone virtual.” This newsletter contains a wealth of critically important information you need to know and has answers to many of the questions you may have. If you don’t find the information you need here, do not hesitate to contact Customer Care at [customer care@gssgc.org](mailto:customer care@gssgc.org).

Our world will never be the same and Girl Scouts of San Geronio is evolving to embrace our new reality. With your courageous resilience and inspiration, we will emerge stronger and more responsive than ever to your needs.

I have never been prouder to be a Girl Scout.

Cynthia H. Breunig

Cynthia H. Breunig  
President and CEO  
Girl Scouts of San Geronimo Council



### Virtual Troop Meetings

Virtual meetings are a great way to keep your troop engaged while everyone is safe at home! Kudos to our troops that are already meeting virtually. You rock! Be on the lookout for more resources from the Troop Support team.

We are fortunate to be living in a time when digital tools are readily available to allow us to connect in meaningful ways, while maintaining social distance. For troops who would like to meet virtually, here are a few suggested platforms that can be used:

- [Zoom](#) - [FAQ](#)
  - Note: Meetings durations maximum of 40 minutes in free version
- [Skype](#) - [Support](#)
  - Note: Up to 10 participants free
- [Webex](#) – [Help Center](#)
  - Note: Limited file and content sharing in free version
- [Microsoft Teams](#) - [Support](#)
- [Facebook Groups](#) – [Help Center](#)
- [Virtual Troop Meeting Tips](#)

# RENEWAL

Renewal is open and available at your convenience. We have extended our Early Renewal Period through July 31st!

All renewed girl and adult members get the limited edition sloth patch. It's absolutely adorable!! Don't forget if your troop sold cookies, one of the first things our Council recommends is renewing your members. Troop Loot can be utilized to renew membership for the 2020-2021 Girl Scout membership year (only during the Early Renewal Period). If you are using Troop Loot to renew, [click here](#).

# REWARDS

**2019 Cookie Troop Loot/ 2018 Fall Nutty Dough/ 2019 Cookie Dough/ 2019 Cookie Juliette Programming Credits** which was due to expire the beginning of June will have its expiration date extended, a new date will be given once it is ascertained the total length of time closed. HOWEVER, do not wait – bank it now for its use later.

**Fandango** – does not expire this is an actual Gift Card

**Troop Loot** – breaking news – your Loot may be used to reregister your troop during the Early Bird period – need help reach out to [customercare@gssgc.org](mailto:customercare@gssgc.org)

**iFly** - New dates to be determined based on stay at home orders.

**Great Wolf Lodge** – Has been rescheduled to August 28th-29th. If for any

reason you can no longer attend and would like to switch to the Google Chrome Book or for the older Girls Khaki Crew at Catalina (TBD) please reach out to [customercare@gssgc.org](mailto:customercare@gssgc.org) by 5/1/20 so that your reward order, at this level, can be changed.

**Cookie Boss** – New date not yet scheduled but IS POSTPONED from May 2nd date.

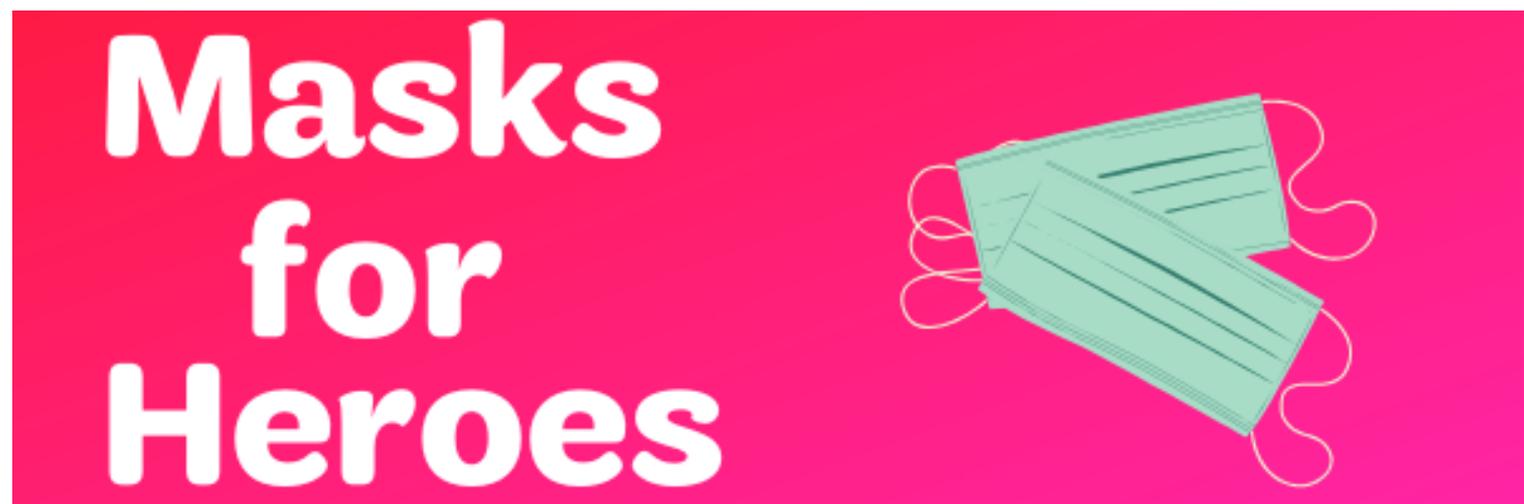
**Reward distribution** – Once offices reopen and large human gatherings are allowed Reward Distribution will occur.

**Note:** Currently we are waiting on a great deal of items to be delivered. Due to the pandemic, many companies stopped making their traditional items and turned to medical needs or the factory itself is closed. Your girls WILL receive their hard earned rewards. Timing of their arrival is unknown at this juncture.

**2020 Cookie Dough** – The company that creates our cards is not deemed essential, as such our cookie dough cards and numbers have yet to be created. We are standing by for their reopening.

**Sewing Machines** - will be delivered to your homes the week of 4/28, to those girls who selected this reward, so that your girls can begin helping with the national mask shortage if they choose.

**Trips: 5,000 Cruise, 4,000 National Convention** – we are working to re-plan these for our girls who earned these opportunities.



**Our complimentary patch** - thank you for all of your help to support your hometown heroes – masks, headbands, ear savers and so many other things, even homemade buttons, selflessly created. Fill out our form and once our stores are open again your patch will be waiting for you.

<https://girlscoutsgssgc.wufoo.com/forms/masks-for-heroes/>

# EVENTS

Due to the current stay-at-home order we have extended the cancelation of the following areas; all events, programs and troop meetings in person through June 14<sup>th</sup>. This includes all volunteer run, as well as Council run events and rewards. If you are registered for one of these events you will receive a message canceling or rescheduling the event you are registered for and automatically receive a refund if you do not reschedule your experience.

Looking for fun quality Girl Scout things to do? Check out our Virtual activities past and upcoming. All our “live” events are recorded and housed at:

<https://www.gssgc.org/en/events/gssgc-virtual.html>

Join our Girl Scouts of San Gorgonio Council Facebook for fun live programs, weekly challenges, Alumni live tutorials, Alumni Zooms helping with homework and so much more.

## **I Care Packing Party**

We have been distributing I Cares since day one of the stay-at-home order. We have ensured our First Responders, Our Home Town Heroes, Our Military, Our Essential workers and our Medical center workers have been receiving your I Care. With a total of over 36,000 packages distributed by leaders and an additional 41,000 packages distributed by regional teams, rangers and local organizations picking up directly to get it on the front lines.

Sadly we must cancel, rather than reschedule, our yearly packing and labeling parties. We all love this event so much. Yet, as it is unknown when large group gatherings will be allowed, and our cookie expiration date is September 1st, we cannot sit on the I Cares waiting for the opportunity for us all to sticker and give love. Moreover it is starting to heat up in our warehouses and we will start losing product.

- The patches are printed and will be in the shops – with a photo of your I Care deliveries the patches are for you complimentary when the shops reopen.
- If you had your heart set on delivering your own I Cares and had planned on picking them up at the packing party and have YET to reach out please email [elockethomas@gssgc.org](mailto:elockethomas@gssgc.org) no later than Friday May 1<sup>st</sup>. On May 4<sup>th</sup> the remaining cookies will be delivered to Operation Gratitude.

### **Updates About G.I.R.L. 2020 and the 55th National Council Session**

Given that safety is at the heart of all Girl Scout activities and the continuing uncertainty regarding the spread and impact of COVID-19, the National Board recently held a special meeting to discuss G.I.R.L. 2020 and our 55th National Council Session (NCS). As a result, the board voted to hold a one-time virtual session for our 55th NCS in October 2020 as well as made the difficult, but necessary, decision to cancel all other in-person events that were planned as part of G.I.R.L. 2020/Girl Scouts' triennial convention, including the Global Roundtable.



We understand how important camp is to so many girls. Being outdoors is an essential part of healthy living and camp is an excellent way to explore the outdoors in a safe, secure environment. We are working hard to make the best decision about our summer programs including day and overnight camp. We are assessing how we can continue as many of them as we can, based on the order of the Governor and the advice of the experts. We are waiting for an update from the American Camp Association about guidance for day and overnight camps for this summer from the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Our plan at this time is to make more decisions on operating camp no later than May 15th once more is known. If you are a registered camper for this summer an email will be sent to you the following week. If you

are not please watch our Facebook or the [Corona-virus Updates Webpage](#) for updates on the plan once they become available.

Don't want to miss out on day or resident camp for your happy camper? Register now for very little risk! If we need to reschedule or cancel programs your camper will receive a full refund. If your family determines camp is not right for you this summer, cancel before June 1st for a full refund. After June 1st our normal refund policy will go into effect. Remember girls can register with a \$60 deposit; the final payment is due four weeks prior to her camp session. Visit [gssgc.org/eventcalendar](https://gssgc.org/eventcalendar) to find a session that is right for you.

### **Survey Virtual Programming**

We are so thrilled that so many of you have participated in our virtual programming. Thank you for being with us – literally since DAY ONE of the stay-at-home order. It has been an honor to serve each of you.

- We have a short survey requesting feedback on those programs. If you have a moment we would love your insight.

[https://girlscoutsusa.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bCVN37kxrMwilex](https://girlscoutsusa.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bCVN37kxrMwilex)

- Those of you that have participated with us online, engaging in programming please make sure you are either reporting back to your leaders that you have worked on a specific badge as indicated in the program description and/or place your orders for your badges with our 24/7 online shop. Shipping continues to be free during this time

<https://www.girlscoutshop.com/SAN-GORGONIO-COUNCIL>

- Did you know that our Council has already offered **56** programs and **27** badges in the last month, so amazing! We did not hesitate when the stay-at-home order was given rather we JUMPED into action to create amazing opportunities immediately. We were the first Council to offer online programming and have served girls in all of our 50 continental United States as well as all continents. We are thrilled to see hundreds and sometimes thousands of you participating in our programs. During these stay-at-home times nothing stopped GSSGC from ensuring you, our members, had immediate access to engaging, fun and educationally rewarding programs covering all age levels and a multitude of interests.

- “Bake The World A Better Place” submission if already NOT completed [click here](#). We have well over 1,100 people requesting patches from participating in our online Cooking, Jamming, and Baking sessions with “E” and those already submitted requests for patches are on their way to your girls as of 4/24/20.

# RETAIL

**Our brick and mortar stores** are closed but YES we are still filling your orders using Cookie/Nutty/ Loot. Submit your orders as the instructions explain found at <https://www.gssgc.org/en/our-council/shop.html> “shopping with Cookie/Nutty/Loot”

**Our online store** continues to offer great sales and free shipping as well – did you know this is like shopping at GSSGC in that money goes back to support girl programming right here at our Council.

<https://www.girlscoutshop.com/SAN-GORGONIO-COUNCIL>

# VOLUNTEER AWARDS & ANNUAL MEETING

## **Volunteer Awards**

Sadly due to the restrictions that have been put in place, we are postponing our Volunteer Recognitions Ceremony until we are able to come together and celebrate in our usual fashion. We are thankful for each and every one of you

for all that you do and continue to do during this time. As soon as we are able we will release new dates for this event.

### **Annual Meeting**

This year's Annual Meeting will be held virtually on May 30th at 10 AM via Zoom Webinar. An Evite with registration details and the Delegate Packet will be sent out next week to voting members of the Council. Please keep an eye out for this email.

# GRADUATING GIRL SCOUT FUNDS

April 8, 2020 The GSSGC Board met to discuss the extension and amendment of the policies for Graduating Seniors in regards to use of their troop funds for one additional year only. The discussion and following motion are below.

Many older Girl Scouts bank their money and use it to travel after they graduate high school. In GSSGC's policies, money that is not used by the end of the fiscal year (September 30th) after girls graduate is returned to Council. Because of current circumstances, the Board of Directors were asked to consider for this year alone, extending the policies for an additional year to allow the older Girl Scouts who are graduating high school seniors, the use of funds for one additional year.

*A motion was made to amend GSSGC's policies to extend the use of 2020 Graduating Seniors troop funds and banked dough (credits) for one year only, from September 30, 2020 to September 30, 2021.*

# Silver Award Ten Year Graduating Senior Gold Award



We have had to cancel this year's award ceremonies. Council is working diligently to ensure that our Silver, 10 Year, Graduating Seniors and Gold recipients receive their pins – we anticipate having all your items in homes by May 30, 2020. We will also be honoring our award recipients via our website and a campaign on social media.

## **Extensions on Bronze, Silver and Gold Deadlines**

Recognizing that many schools, youth activities and community gatherings have been suspended and that we are navigating a period of rapid change, Girl Scouts is offering a three-month extension from September 30th to December 31, 2020 to provide flexibility for Girl Scout Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors earning Girl Scouts' Highest Awards – the Bronze, Silver and Gold. This is particularly relevant for 5<sup>th</sup> grade Juniors, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Cadettes and 12<sup>th</sup> grade Ambassadors who will bridge to the next program level officially on September 30, 2020 and typically would no longer be eligible to earn the Bronze, Silver or Gold Award, respectively.

- 5<sup>th</sup> grade Juniors should be on Step 6 of their Bronze Award by September 30, 2020
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade Cadettes should have an approved Silver Award Take Action Project Notice of Intent on file with Council by August 30, 2020
- 12<sup>th</sup> grade Ambassadors should have an approved Gold Award Take Action Project on file with Council by September 1, 2020

Because San Gorgonio doesn't track Bronze Award Take Action projects until they are complete, we kindly remind girls (and their troop leaders) to be "honest and fair" when using this extension.

Graduating 12<sup>th</sup> grade Ambassadors should plan to have an adult membership

in order to use the extension. The candidates may renew as an adult or choose Lifetime Membership.

# TRAIN THE TRAINER

Not able to find the class you need? Times scheduled not convenient? Never a class in your area? We have the class for you! Become a trainer! Never have to wait for a class again. Become the teacher. We had a Train the Trainer scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2020 in Riverside. We've rescheduled it to Saturday, July 25, 2020 still in Riverside at the Central West office. Go to [gssgc.org](http://gssgc.org) and click on Volunteers>Training Essentials, scroll to the bottom and complete an interest form today. We are in desperate need in all regions except the High Desert.

[Learn more](#)



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