



Dear Girl Scout Family,

I hope this message finds you well and that you and your loved ones are healthy. I am writing to share an update relative to our coronavirus (COVID-19) reopening plans. Our team has been working in close connection with our national organization (Girl Scouts of the USA), the California Department of Public Health (CPDH), and the County Health Officers as we navigate the reopening process and determine when various activities can be resumed.

Under the current Stay at Home Order issued by the Governor, mass gatherings continue to be prohibited. Based on our discussions with CPDH and the County Health Officers, this prohibition continues to apply to in-person Girl Scout activities. The following is taken directly from the CPDH website:

State public health directives prohibit professional, social and community mass gatherings. Gatherings are defined as—meetings or other events that bring together persons from multiple households at the same time for a shared or group experience in a single room, space, or place such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, or other indoor or outdoor space. They pose an especially high danger of transmission and spread of COVID-19.

On May 25, 2020, in an effort to balance First Amendment interests with public health, the State Public Health Officer created an exception to the prohibition against mass gatherings for faith-based services and cultural ceremonies as well as protests. Those types of gatherings are now permitted indoors so long as they do not exceed 100 attendees or 25% of the capacity of the space in which the gathering is held, whichever is lower. State public health directives now do not prohibit in-person outdoor faith-based services or protests as long as physical distancing of six feet between persons or groups of persons from different households is maintained at all times. All other mass gatherings are prohibited until further notice, except as otherwise specifically permitted in state public health directives (including in applicable industry guidance).

Source: <https://covid19.ca.gov/stay-home-except-for-essential-needs/>

Until the provisions of the Stay at Home Order change or are rescinded, Girl Scouts cannot resume in-person Troop, Service Unit, or Council programs and meetings. Further, Girl Scouts working towards their Gold, Silver or Bronze Awards unfortunately may not organize volunteers or team members to meet in person for their projects (family members from the same household may work together on the project in safe environments with appropriate personal protection equipment).

I want to acknowledge and validate the frustrations that many of us are feeling related to the ability to do certain activities (such as dining out and shopping) while others (such as in-person Girl Scout activities) are still prohibited. Please know that we are actively working with the CPDH and County Health Officers and are making every effort in our planning process to reopen in-person activities, for those that are comfortable, as soon as it is safe and permissible to do so.

As we continue to navigate this evolving pandemic, please know that I and all of our staff are focused on continuing to serve our members virtually as we move into staged reopening activities as permitted. We will continue to share updates as they are available.

Thank you for your continued support of Girl Scouts and your dedication to the girls of the Central Valley.

Warmly,

Dr. Russel Statham, Chief Executive Officer