Dear Girl Scouts,

You are an inspiration to me! You have found such creative ways to keep Girl Scout connections strong and I can already feel the energy and excitement as we move into the next phase of in-person meetings. Girls are learning from you, first hand, how Girl Scouts step up in an emergency – with care for themselves and others, with planning and preparation, with training, and with respect for the authorities helping us maneuver the pandemic the best way we can.

Recently, Governor Baker moved to Phase 3 of the COVID-19 Reopening Plan and, in response, we’ve made some changes in our guidelines for in-person meeting and activities. Please take a few minutes to read through the revised guidelines listed below.

We continue to encourage outdoor activities through the summer because the natural environment provides plenty of circulating fresh air, room to spread out, and fun! There are many outdoor options and we are beginning to accept reservations for outdoor day use at our GSCWM camps. We are not charging a fee but there is limited availability. Email info@gscwm.org with your specific request and any questions.

It’s possible to hold indoor meetings but the restrictions make it more difficult. Troops are not currently allowed to meet in private homes, gyms, or fitness centers and the MA guidelines require 1,000 square feet of space for eight people. A typical 2-car garage is about 400 square feet so a very large public space is required for a gathering of 14-16 people.

There are still many unanswered questions about the COVID-19 virus and we all look forward to therapeutic and preventive advances. In the meantime, I’m proud of the work you’re doing with girls and appreciate your patience and flexibility as we work together to help keep everyone healthy and in good spirits.

If you have any questions, please contact us at info@gscwm.org.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Pattie Hallberg, CEO
GUIDELINES
The following guidelines must be followed by every troop, every time they meet or do an activity. They are subject to change with little notice should guidelines or requirements from governmental authorities change.

- The number of people in a group must not exceed 14, which allows for an optimal troop size of 12 girls and two adult leaders. An exception is for Daisy Girl Scouts meeting outdoors where an additional two adults are allowed to meet the required girl/adult ratios (for a total of 16 people).
  - Larger troops are wonderful! Consider meeting in small groups – maybe groups with a shared interest in working on a particular badge.
  - Consult “Safety Activity Checkpoints” for the type of activity you’re planning to be sure you comply with the applicable girl/adult ratio.
  - Remember to submit Activity & Travel requests, allowing adequate time for approval in advance of activities outside of your normal meeting place.
- Remind families that nobody should attend if they are showing any signs of illness and to do a quick health check before they leave home.
- No shared transportation is allowed in this phase so each family is responsible for their girl’s transportation.
- Social distancing of at least six (6) feet between people must be maintained.
- Everyone must properly wear a face covering over their mouth and nose.
- All participants must wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
  - Wash when they arrive and prior to leaving, before eating, after using the restroom, and after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing.
  - Hand sanitizer needs to be available for all and it is preferable for each person to bring and use their own. Hand sanitizer (must be at least 60% alcohol and must NOT contain methanol) can be used, IF soap and water is not available.
- Disinfectant wipes or spray with paper towels need to be available and used to wipe down high-touch areas (door handles, chairs, tables, etc.) before and after use.
- Supplies should not be shared (crayons, markers, staplers, etc.).
- No shared cooking or serving utensils for food are allowed (no buffets/pot lucks). Girls should bring their own lunch or snack from home (no sharing) or pre-packaged food/snacks can be provided.
• GSCWM Leadership Centers in Holyoke and Worcester are not open for activities or gatherings at this time.
• No overnight trips are allowed in this phase. Troops taking day trips must call the facility or vendor in advance to confirm they are following CDC and MA state COVID-19 guidelines and requirements.