



March 15, 2020

The Five Rivers Council continues to closely monitor the COVID-19 Virus and to make decisions on Scouting operations in the best interests of our youth, families, volunteers, and communities. As you know, County Executives throughout our region have declared States of Emergency over the past few days in an effort to prevent the spread of the virus. All schools in the Five Rivers Council region of NY and PA are ordered closed for an extended period and citizens are being encouraged to avoid large public gatherings and to practice social distancing.

**As a result of the States of Emergency now in effect, the Five Rivers Council, BSA is suspending all in-person Scouting activities through March 31, 2020.** This includes all unit meetings and activities, district and council events, activities and camping at our camp properties, and the operation of our Scout Shop.

**We strongly encourage units, dens, and patrols to continue to meet virtually** during this hiatus using video or phone conferencing at their regularly scheduled time. This is also a great time for Cub Scouts to work on Electives and for Scouts, BSA to work on Merit Badges. We would also encourage you to have your Scouts write letters or place phone calls to people that are in Nursing Homes and other facilities that have limited access to visitors. This provides an opportunity for our Scouts to Do a Good Turn Daily while brightening the day for other people impacted by this health crisis.

The Council is working to identify resources, content and programs to help with virtual meetings and will share them with you as they become available.

**Our support staff and District Executives will still be working (remotely in most cases) and will be available to provide support.** Please feel free to call us at (607) 796-0699 and leave a message or reach out to the professional staff through their cell phones. We will be rolling out a system to provide unit leader access to Scout Store advancement and other materials in the next few days.

As this is a fluid and changing situation, we will continue to provide regular updates as they become available and will make additional adjustments to our operations as necessary.

Yours in Scouting,

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