



April 22, 2020

Dear Five Rivers Council Scouters,

Together, we are facing a truly unprecedented situation. The COVID-19 is affecting all our families, our businesses, our communities, and our Scouting program in ways we had never imagined. As the nation, states, counties, and local towns attempt to reduce the spread and severity of the pandemic, these actions have a direct impact on the lives of all of us and our Scouting operations.

Based on the recent actions by government agencies and recommendations of healthcare professionals, the Five Rivers Council, BSA is extending our suspension of all in-person Scouting activities through May 30, 2020. This includes all unit meetings and activities, District and Council events, all use of our camp properties, and the operation of our Council Offices and Scout Shop. We are making this difficult decision with the safety of Scouts, volunteers, professional staff, and our community as our top priority.

As previously stated, we strongly encourage units, dens, and patrols to continue to meet virtually during this hiatus using video or phone conferencing at their regularly scheduled times. Our goal is that your Scouts maintain a sense of normalcy and continuity during this time; your unit can help with this by continuing to meet with your Scouts virtually. Additionally, we endorse districts holding their routine monthly meetings (District Committee, Roundtable, Leaders Meetings, etc.) via electronic means. If you need help setting up a virtual meeting, please contact your District Executive.

As of now, we intend to operate both Cub Scout Day camps as well as Cub Scout and Scouts BSA resident camps. We are working closely with the New York State Department of Health to ensure delivery of successful and healthy camping programs this summer. To help our families, we have extended the **Early Bird deadline to May 9th** and the on-time deadline to June 1st for your camp payments.

There are a few unfortunate outcomes that result from our decision to extend the suspension of activities. We must cancel the Spring Cub Family weekend, as well as the Order of the Arrow events scheduled for May.

Additionally, while we intend to celebrate the accomplishments and success of Scouts that received their Eagle Rank during the past year, we are forced to reschedule the May 26th Eagle Dinner. We will let you know as soon as we have a new date and time.

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The Council Recognition dinner will also be deferred until we can safely gather as a Scouting Family safely to celebrate the achievements and accomplishments of this past year. Keep watching the Council website as well as the Watercooler on Facebook for updates.

We intend to resume normal council-wide operations when government authorities and healthcare professionals let us know that it is safe to do so. As this is a fluid and ever-changing situation, we will continue to provide regular updates as they become available and will make additional adjustments to our operations, as necessary.

Please take the necessary precautions to remain healthy and safe.

Yours in Scouting,

Yours in Scouting,

Yours in Scouting,

Karl Ziegenfus
Field Director

John Sharkey
Council President

Marc McGrain
Council Commissioner

Brad Bowersox
Area Director

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