



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

FIVE RIVERS COUNCIL

244 West Water Street, Elmira, New York 14901

May 29, 2020

Dear Five Rivers Council Scouting Family,

We hope this finds you well. Over the past few months, these words carry extra weight and some sadness. To anyone who has lost friends and loved ones during these challenging times, please accept our condolences. If you or family members have experienced illness, we wish you a speedy and complete recovery.

At the Five Rivers Council, Boy Scouts of America, ensuring the safety of our Scouts, volunteers, employees and communities will always remain our top priority. Like you, we've been closely monitoring updates and recommendations on this ever-changing situation, and have been consulting with health experts, risk management professionals, and state and local government officials in evaluating whether to run our summer camping programs this summer.

Earlier this week, the Council's Executive Board and Leadership Team met and voted to suspend all of our camp programs for the summer of 2020. This includes Cub Scout Resident and Day Camps, and Scouts, BSA Resident Camp. As you can imagine, this has been a very difficult decision to make and it was not undertaken without significant research, debate and discussion.

We could not determine with absolute certainty that social distancing guidelines and ongoing health department regulations could be met adequately this summer and believe our decision is in the best interest of our Scouting family.

Even though we are unable to offer in-person camps this summer, we are committed to providing the best possible virtual summer experiences for both our Cub Scouts and Scouts, BSA. Our staff and volunteers will be working with other area councils over the next several weeks to develop these programs and will be sharing additional details as they become available. We also strongly encourage our units to continue to meet virtually over the summer, to begin planning your fall Scouting activities, and to keep our Scouts and families engaged.

We will be reaching out to each unit in the next few days to determine how to best deal with refunds and camp deposits.

Our council and staff are appreciative of the planning and preparation your Units invested to be ready for camp and are saddened that we are not able to host our Scouts at either Day or Resident Camp this summer. This is an extraordinarily challenging time; unlike anything we have experienced. Our hope is we all emerge from this difficult period even stronger than before. Most importantly, we look forward to providing the full range of Scouting programs, including outdoor adventures, as soon as we can and as the situation allows.

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Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate these uncharted waters.

Yours in Scouting,

Brad Bowersox
Acting Scout Executive

Marc McGrain
Council Commissioner

John Sharkey
Council President