

Greater Tampa Bay Area Council Boy Scouts of America
Coronavirus Update #3 – March 15, 2020

Date: March 15, 2020

To: Greater Tampa Bay Area Council volunteers, staff and donors.

From: James M Rees, Scout Executive/CEO

The health, safety and welfare of all our Scouting participants is the top priority for the Greater Tampa Bay Area Council. In the last few days, state and local authorities have closed schools, public parks, libraries and public gatherings at government venues. Given these recent developments and in particular the directive by the Florida Department of Education that all public schools in the state of Florida remain closed until March 27, 2020, Council and District Scouting operations in the Greater Tampa Bay Area Council are now suspended until at least April 1, 2020.

Information regarding Council Camp closures, Council and District Events/Activities as well as suggested operational changes for weekly unit meetings and activities is provided below.

Scouting leaders and stakeholders are encouraged to educate yourselves through websites such as the Center for Disease Control www.cdc.gov and the State of Florida Department of Health <http://www.floridahealth.gov/> to learn more and stay informed. Also visit <https://tampabayscouting.org/> for further updates on operational changes.

The following operational changes are in effect immediately and remain so until at least April 1, 2020, or otherwise announced.

All Council Camps will be closed to Scouting activities effective Monday, March 16, 2020 and will remain closed until at least April 1, 2020.

- To reschedule your reservation please call Christine Chansley at 813-872-2691 Ext. 101 or email Christine.Chansley@scouting.org

District and Council Activities are now suspended beginning Monday, March 16, 2020 and will remain so until at least April 1, 2020.

- Rescheduled dates and information will be provided by respective event and activity leaders.
- The Spring NYLT is going to continue as planned. The staff and participants have participated in a pre-event medical screening and the program has already begun.
- Scheduled district & council meetings will be conducted by conference call.
- Staff is being asked to try to conduct all personal business meetings by phone.

Unit Meetings and Program

- The decision to suspend weekly unit meetings and weekend program is the responsibility of the unit committee and unit leadership in consultation with the unit's chartered organization.
- It is the Greater Tampa Bay Area Council's recommendation to our units that weekly unit meetings and weekend programs be suspended until at least April 1, 2020.

The Lewis Hill, III Scout Service Center

- The Council office will continue regularly scheduled business hours at this time.
- While visitors will be received, email and telephone access to service center staff is now preferred and encouraged. Please visit <https://tampabayscouting.org/about/council-staff> for a staff directory and contact information.
- Sanitizing and extra cleaning of restrooms and office spaces is currently underway.

Council Refund Policy for Cancelled Events-Activities

- Any participant currently signed up for any district or council event between March 16 – April 30 may request a refund if the request is received in writing **prior** to the event only. Send email to Christine.Chansley@scouting.org.

What can all Scouting members do to protect themselves and others

- Scouting members should take the same precautions they would for any common cold or flu.
- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. *(Alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol content can work in a pinch, but they're generally not as effective as soap and water).
- Hands should be washed before eating, after using the bathroom, and when you come inside from outdoor activities that caused hands to get dirty.
- Avoid touching your mouth, eyes or noses.
- Cough and/or sneeze into your elbows and not your hands.
- Distance yourself from anyone coughing or sneezing.
- Encourage Healthy Habits, like eating a healthy diet, exercising, and getting enough sleep.
- If you are sick, stay away from school, work, Scouts and others.
- If you have any symptoms of the virus, seek medical attention immediately and follow the advice of your medical professional.

I remain grateful to all volunteers, staff and donors of the Greater Tampa Bay Area Council for providing the amazing program of Scouting to the youth of our area. Please contact me at jim.rees@scouting.org if you have any concerns or recommendations.