



## Summer Camp Cancellation Follow-Up

Hello, Girl Scouts of Western Washington Membership—

In the [email that you received from me this morning](#), where I shared the difficult decision I made to cancel all camp programs for the 2020 season, I apologize for not explicitly stating that the camp cancellation also applies to volunteer-led camp programming. To clarify, here is what is happening with the entire GSWW summer camp efforts:

- Resident Camps at River Ranch, St. Albans and Robbinswold are cancelled.
- Volunteer-led Community, Day and Twilight camps are cancelled at all locations (GSWW properties as well as off-site locations).
- Site use of our properties (site reservations) are cancelled until further notice.
- Camp properties are closed to the public until further notice. Unless authorized by the CEO, no one should be on GSWW camp property, except for Site Managers living on premises.
- We will not be holding any summer horse programming at any location.

I also apologize that announcing camp cancellation blindsided our volunteer leadership, who had been—very appropriately, but unbeknownst to me—told they'd be given advance notice and support to prepare. This happened because the path for review of this communication accidentally omitted the staff who

would've caught these problems. I'm responsible for that oversight. While we're working hard to keep our right and left hands tightly coordinated, I fell short here.

For as long as I've been a Girl Scout CEO both here and in Colorado, my default mode of thinking about camp has included both volunteer- and staff-led. I recognize the scope of our volunteer-led program, and its invaluable contribution to girls' development, and I'm in awe of the commitment and expertise of the volunteers who implement it. In this instance, I understand I let you down. I feel awful about that, and I'm deeply sorry.

The rationale for including the volunteer-led programs in this cancellation is essentially the same as what I articulated for the staff-led program. Even if we're on the downhill side of this outbreak by late May—which seems more unattainable by the day—at the beginning of our camp season in June we'd be convening girls and volunteers early in the post-outbreak recovery period. Other places have seen infections spike as soon they've relaxed mitigation efforts, so any of your programs would be at risk for a possible outbreak. Our girls and volunteers are not worth the risk. In being a sister to every Girl Scout, we first and foremost must take care of each other.

We also wanted to share our next steps to support families, members, and volunteers:

- For all summer camps, GSWW will work on providing resources to help Volunteer-Led Camp Leadership teams process cancellations and refunds. We'll also be working with our Member Support team to start the cancellation and refund process for sessions at River Ranch, Robbinswold, and St. Albans.
- For site reservations (use of our camp properties), we'll be working through the cancellation process. We understand our lottery process is important and this news is disappointing; we'll be working through the impacts on 2021 placement.
- Our team will be thinking through how to prioritize reservations for next year.

- We'll honor the Cookie Dough match and 20% discount earned in 2020 during the 2021 season. For those who were planning on using cookie rewards for camp this year, but would like to change their reward, please contact [productprogram@girlscoutsw.org](mailto:productprogram@girlscoutsw.org) as soon as possible with the girl name and reward she would like in place of the cookie dough.

Please understand that every department across GSWW is being impacted by the major staff reductions underway. We appreciate your tolerance and support as we handle these notifications, and your patience as we navigate this difficult situation.

With heartfelt apologies,  
Megan Ferland, CEO