



March 11, 2020

Dear Members of Girl Scouts of Greater South Texas family:

On behalf of our council, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to so many who have reached out to us to find out as much as they could on how our council and GSUSA is preparing to respond to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus). I would like to share some insight from our National GSUSA CEO, Dr. Sylvia Acevedo,

"We must be active in managing our risks and ensuring our girls, volunteers, and staff stay safe while also keeping Girl Scouting vibrant and active."

The Annual Meeting and Recognition luncheon is approaching. Many of our members travel long distances, reserve hotel rooms and plan activities with their troops around this event. In following the health practices recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to protect against the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus in mass gatherings or large community events, our Council Board of Directors and our Executive Leadership team have decided to **cancel** the Annual Meeting that was scheduled to take place Saturday, April 4, 2020, at the Borchard Fairgrounds.

GSGST will issue refunds to those who have already purchased their recognition luncheon tickets. Attached are some additional FAQs that may help answer any questions you may have. Please contact info@gsgst.org if you have additional questions.

We know how hard all of our Girl Scouts, adult volunteers and trainers, community partners and Gold, Silver and Bronze award recipients work every year. We want to make sure that everyone is recognized for their hard work and achievements. We are currently looking at alternative ways to make sure that each individual is acknowledged. We will also be making necessary adjustments to hold the business meeting portion of the event very soon so that our delegates can be updated on all council business, vote on board directors, and national council session delegates virtually. This information will be sent to delegates in a separate communication.

On behalf of our council, thank you for understanding our decision. I am positive that our Girl Scouts will be at the forefront of being active in your communities' responses and making a difference where it counts the most - ***making the world a better place.***

Yours in Girl Scouting,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lydia P. Aleman".

Lydia P. Aleman,
Chief Executive Officer

FAQs:

Q: Will the Recognition luncheon be rescheduled?

A: At this time, the recognition luncheon will not be rescheduled. The council is currently looking into alternative ways that we will be able to recognize our top sellers, volunteers, etc. We will notify all award recipients when plans are finalized.

Q: Will the business meeting still take place?

A: Yes, the business meeting will be taking place at a soon to be determined date and time. All delegates will still be needed to represent their service center to vote on important business for the council. Delegates will be contacted when plans are finalized.

Q: Will I be refunded for my ticket purchase?

A: Yes, you will be refunded.

Q: When will we receive our refunds?

A: They will take some time to issue but you should receive your refund by the end of March thru PayPal transactions.

Q: Do I need to do anything to get my refund?

A: No, we will issue the refunds on your behalf.

Q: What about other GSGST scheduled events?

A: At this time, all other GSGST scheduled events are **still** taking place. Other events will be looked at individually with special consideration to those events that are expecting large crowds. As changes and warnings from the State of Texas or Center for Disease Control come in, events will be reviewed and updates will be given.