



May 14, 2020

Dear Girl Scout Families,

It's been more than two months since we began our lives safer-at-home, and I am still amazed daily at your resiliency and positivity. Your dedication to "distanced, not distant" is shown in the awesome digital troop get-togethers, volunteer meetings, and thoughtful service you're providing. Check out these [great stories and fantastic videos](#), and please [share your stories](#), pictures, and videos with us, too!

I am so proud of the girls who earned their Silver Award this year and have been blown away by the important and impactful projects they brought to our communities. I had the honor and pleasure of speaking at the first two virtual Silver Award ceremonies on April 29 and May 13, and look forward to the final ceremony on May 20.

I am also moved by the dedication and support of all the troop leaders, volunteers, and parents who help girls engage in such amazing work. It is in this spirit that I invite all of you to our first [Virtual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony & Sing-Along](#) on May 30 at 10:00 a.m. We'll be thanking and celebrating all volunteers for their dedication to the Movement and recognizing a record number of GSGLA volunteers earning national awards. And to really bring us together we'll belt out some of our favorite Girl Scouts songs. We will also take a few moments in memoriam for GSGLA friends and volunteers who have passed since our last volunteer recognition ceremony, including former Chief Mission Delivery Officer Shannan Johnston and volunteer David Andrews, who was pivotal in advocating for Girl Scout STEM programs and coaching GSGLA rocketry teams. Please [register](#) by May 26 and share the link with anyone who would like to celebrate our amazing volunteers.

GSGLA staff will continue to work remotely at least through May and our properties remain closed as well. Our Girl Scout shops are reviewing options for curbside pick-up at some of our locations; be sure to check your inbox for updates. Meanwhile, I've established a Return-to-Work task force that is beginning to develop protocols for the eventual safe return to our worksites. This team is reviewing CDC, OSHA, WHO, and federal, state, and local government guidelines, with the health and safety of our employees, girls, and volunteers as the highest priorities.

In national news, GSUSA has decided not to host the 55th National Council Session in person this year and will instead hold a virtual session for delegates in October. Though it will be happening in cyber-space, I'm excited to represent GSGLA alongside our other delegates at my first convention. Unfortunately, the guest (non-delegate) experience, G.I.R.L. 2020, including the Global Roundtable, has been canceled.

As I reflect on all that has changed in our lives over the last two months, one of the positives has been the opportunity to connect with you more often via email. Keep taking care of each other, keep sharing your stories, and together we'll keep fulfilling the Girl Scouts mission to make the world a better place.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Theresa Edy-Kiene". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Theresa Edy-Kiene
Chief Executive Officer
Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles