

April Mid-Month Newsletter

- As mentioned in a communication sent to all Scouting families on Tuesday, March 24th, the Greater St. Louis Area Council's top priority is the health and safety of our Scouts, volunteers, staff, and their family members. In this spirit and given the unprecedented circumstances related to COVID-19, effective March 17th and remaining through April 22nd are the following:

- **All UNITS are to discontinue in-person meetings and all activities including camping trips.**
 - **All DISTRICT and COUNCIL in-person meetings, activities, and camps are cancelled. Instead, consider using technology apps such as Zoom, Skype, Facetime, Duo, or Google Hangouts.**
 - **All COUNCIL camps will be CLOSED.**
 - **All SERVICE CENTERS will be closed. Council staff will be working remotely per CDC social distancing recommendations. Minimal services will continue via remote functions.**

**These cancellations do NOT apply to our summer camp programs and events occurring beyond the closure period of APRIL 22nd.
The Council will continue to monitor the situation closely.**

For questions, please reach out to Ashley Metelski, District Executive
(Ashley.metelski@scouting.org)

- During this time that Scout Shops are closed, and a leader needs to purchase Rank advancement items, please use the following steps:
 - Unit Leader will email in their Scoutbook Advancement report to NDCSupply.Orders@scouting.org
 - Please include contact phone number so that the Customer Service team member can contact for payment information.
 - Customer Service Rep will contact Unit Leader for credit card information, ship to and bill to address, and verify the correct Council along with the actual advancement needed.
- Scouting can take place anywhere – even from the comfort of your home! On this [website](#) you will find a resource hub for parents and leaders to help support Scouting at home, with stay-at-home educational activities for any Scout rank, tips for continuing to work on advancements and kid-friendly content that connects Scouting with their daily lives. We will continue to add new content and resources to this hub regularly.

- The Camp Card sale has been extended until May 8. These cards can help your unit generate money to deliver the Scouting program! Scouts sell coupon cards for \$5 and keep \$2.50 to help defray the costs of registration, summer camp, uniforms, or equipment! This program is risk free! Turn in any unsold cards by May 8 with no penalty. Have money to turn in? Please mail it to 4568 West Pine Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108-2193
- **Leader Training Update:**

The training group has been busy organizing virtual training courses for our volunteers to take during this time. Volunteers have the options to take our virtual training which is conducted by training volunteers from all over the council. The benefits to this style of training is volunteers can ask questions, meet new people, and gather resources. We will be offering Cub Leader training on April 14th and 16th. Scoutmaster training will be held on April 20th and April 27th. Volunteers must attend both sessions to be considered *trained*. Space is limited for both trainings! We will be offering more training sessions in the future. **These trainings are being offered at NO COST.** If volunteers would prefer to take the National training online, they may log onto my.scouting.org and take the require training for their position.

Cub Leader Training: April 14th and April 16th , Leaders can use the following link to sign up for the training: <https://www.scoutingevent.com/312-2020virtualcubleadertraining>

Scouts BSA Training: April 20th and April 27th , Leaders can use the following link to sign up for the training: <https://www.scoutingevent.com/312-2020smasmtrpcommtraining>

Hazardous Weather Training/Youth Protection Training:

Many volunteers will show up as not trained and that is because this past April National made Hazardous Weather Training a requirement for direct contact leaders. They may take this training online at my.scouting.org or take one of the council training. More dates will be coming out for more opportunities to take this training. As many of you know Youth Protection training (YPT2) was revamp 2 years ago this past February. Most volunteers will need to re-take the mandatory training for Youth Protection (YPT2). Please encourage your volunteers to take the training required for their position.

Eagle Extension:

Scouts will need to use the form attached to the email to file for an extension. Once the form is completed, they will need to email the form to eagle@stlbsa.org.

Once the form is turned into the council office, we will send out the form for district advancement chairs and the council advancement chair to approve. Scouts will receive a letter from the council office stating they have been approved for the extension. They will need to bring this letter to the council office when they turn in their Eagle application. This information will be sent to your advancements chairs this afternoon. This form will also be added to the council website. Please use the following [link](#) for the guideline to file for an extension.

- Scoutmasters have been sent a lengthy email explaining the Anpetu-We Lodge virtual election plan. If you are a Scoutmaster, please check your email and junk mail folder. If you did not get a copy, please email Tony Smee at associateadvisor@anpetu-we.org.
- ScoutFest 2020 registration is now open! Units that pre-registered will go back into their original pre-registration order to fully book your spot. Only units who did not pre-register will need to sign up. Register [here](#)
- The early bird registration for summer camp has been extended to **April 22!** For Cub Scouts, register [here](#). For Scouts BSA, register [here](#). For Venturing, register [here](#).
- The Six District Spring Camporee has been postponed due to COVID-19. The Camporee Committee is in the process of rescheduling this. As soon as we have secured a new date, we will let units know.
- Half of our district's Friends of Scouting presentations were supposed to occur during the time of the COVID-19 shutdown. If this includes your unit, please email your new presentation date (in person or virtual, whichever is best for your unit) to Ashley.metelski@scouting.org
- Scoutfest 6 (local event) is July 11, 2020. This is our yearly, fun event where Scouts do a 2-hour community service project for the City of Cape Girardeau, Parks & Rec Department. Scouts can earn their hours now by picking up trash at one of the City of Cape's local parks or walking trails while social distancing. If your Scouts have done this, please contact Erin Schloss at eschloss@girlscoutsmoheartland.org
- Special thanks to Ameren Missouri for sponsoring the 6 District Spring Camporee! Many thanks to Plaza Tire Service for sponsoring the Automotive Maintenance Merit Badge!

