

May Mid-Month Newsletter

- As mentioned in a communication sent to all Scouting families on May 12, 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, please note the following changes:
 - **ALL summer resident and day camps are cancelled.** Please note that we are looking into rescheduling Shawnee Day Camps for possibly the fall.
 - We will open many of our summer camp facilities to individual families to enjoy the great outdoors safely with self-guided family camping and day trip activities. Reservations will be limited to support proper social distancing and available on a first-come, first-served basis. **More details will be coming soon.** Be sure to check the [Council website](#) and follow the [Council Facebook page](#) for announcements and sign-up procedures.
 - Council Service Centers and Scout Shops are tentatively scheduled to re-open June 1st as allowed by local and state restrictions. Visitors will probably be required to wear masks and maintain social distancing in those facilities.
 - We will also continue our many virtual and home-based Scouting programs, activities and training courses during the rest of May, June, July and August in order to keep our Scouts and leaders active and engaged.
 - The Council is working diligently to develop a plan so units can start face-to-face meetings. Until this plan is released, please do not meet in person.

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.
- The 2020-2021 Council Program Guides and District Calendar are now available! Click **here** to access them.
- 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.

- 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 revamped 2 years ago this past February. Most volunteers will need to re-take the mandatory training for Youth Protection (YPT2).
- **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.

- We like to brag that our donors are the best. Not only do they contribute to us, but they also take the extra step to see if their employer offers a matching gift program that may double the total donation to our organization! Have you checked to see if your company offers a matching gift option? Thanks for being a *super donor* if so! Check here to see if your company has a program like this: **<insert URL>**
- 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](#)
- In light of the extended period of camping restrictions attributable to COVID-19, there is a temporary modification being made to the camping requirements for OA eligibility. Click on the [link](#) for details.
- The Shawnee District would like to THANK some of our local business supporters. Please help support those who support us! **<INSERT DOC>**
- The Shawnee District is compiling a Quarantine Cookbook. Submit recipes to Ashley.metelski@scouting.org
- Scouting For Food will be here before we know it! We have a couple of routes in Cape and Jackson that are not being covered. If your unit can take an additional route, please let Scouting For Food Chair, Mike Biri know, biri3131@charter.net
- 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
- Journey to Excellence scoring will be adjusted in light of COVID-19. Learn more [here](#).
- Need to print membership cards for your unit? Visit our district website for details!



- It's time to submit those Venturing and Sea Scout Leadership Awards. Who is making a difference in your unit, District, or the Council and deserves to be recognized? Each district should aim to promote at least one youth and adult. This award is highly selective and is only presented to about 5 youth and 5 adults annually. Please do all you can to ensure that we have nominated those deserving among us. If you need a list of previous recipients they are [here](#) (for the more recent recipients) and [here](#) (for the older recipients). Please remember this is a secret nomination and should be kept in confidence until the recipients are announced at the Venturing and Sea Scouting Celebration dinner, August 9th. Nomination form available at: <http://venturing.gslac.org/sites/venturing.gslac.org/files/VLASSLANomination2020.pdf>
- 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!

