

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Girl Scouts Adjust Operations & Cookie Program Due to COVID-19, Donate Cookies to Essential Workers



*GSNYPENN has made no-contact deliveries of donated Girl Scout Cookies to essential organizations across its service area, including (L-R) Manlius Fire Department, Meals on Wheels Eastern Onondaga County & Town of Cicero Police Department.
(Photos courtesy of GSNYPENN & the above organizations)*

Cicero, N.Y. (March 27, 2020)— [Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways](https://www.gsnypenn.org) (GSNYPENN) is making adjustments to operations in response to the outbreak of novel coronavirus COVID-19. All council, troop or Service Unit programs and events are temporarily postponed or cancelled. Service center and store locations in Cicero, Horseheads, Johnson City, New Hartford, Seneca Falls and Watertown are closed, as are camp properties in Deposit, Harrisville, Ithaca and Tully. These measures remain in effect through at least April 15, to be re-evaluated based on current federal, state and local mandates.

“There is nothing we take more seriously than the safety and well-being of our girls, volunteers, staff, families and the greater community. This is a challenging moment for Girl Scouts and everyone, everywhere. We will continue to monitor the situation and to do what Girl Scouts do best—help and lead,” says GSNYPENN CEO Julie Dale.

The council is inviting the community to continue to support its 17,000+ members during the 2020 cookie program, which has been moved online through May 31. On March 13 in response to the pandemic, GSNYPENN canceled all remaining cookie booths across its 26 counties that were scheduled to run through the end of this month. Funds raised through the program stay local to help troops in a number of ways including community service projects, programming, camp adventures and more.

Find all the ways you can help at gsnypenn.org/cookiefinder.

- The council has a [digital link](#) for the public to order cookies for shipment and/or to donate their purchase to local first responders and essential workers, the Red Cross or GSNYPENN Sweet Support partner Meals on Wheels, which has seen an increase in recipients with new shelter in place mandates in NYS.

Donated cookies are already being distributed and shared with local organizations in a no-contact manner. This includes a number of area fire and police departments, hospitals, the Red Cross and regional Meals on Wheels programs. Recipients to-date include South Bay F.D., North Syracuse F.D., Brewerton F.D., Cicero F.D., Bridgeport F.D., Manlius F.D., Town of Cicero P.D., Town of Manlius P.D., Meals on Wheels Eastern Onondaga County and Meals on Wheels of Syracuse with more to come across the council footprint.

Discounted shipping rates are in effect for 8+ packages. Visit digitalcookie.girlscouts.org/scout/gsnypenn3156989400.

- Many GSNYPENN troops have planned community service projects, travel and to attend summer camp and remain hopeful they will be able to do so. [Check here](#) to see how the public can contact them to purchase cookies for shipment or no-contact delivery to support their endeavors. Many troops are working with organizations in their local communities to safely donate cookies to food banks and pantries, essential workers, first responders, quarantined soldiers at Fort Drum and more.
- Cookies are still available for purchase by friends and family through each girl's individual Digital Cookie website through the end of the program. Cookies purchased directly from a girl can either be shipped or delivered no-contact.

In addition, this week staff launched [GSNYPENN Live](#) on Facebook to deliver virtual, at-home programming to keep girls, volunteers and families engaged with Girl Scouting during this time. The group is open to anyone interested in taking part in fun, interactive programming geared towards adults and girls in grades K-12 that is based in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Programs are focused on outdoor/nature, STEM, leadership, arts, life skills and more. Visit facebook.com/groups/GSNYPENNLIVE to join.

GSNYPENN staff is working remote during regular business hours, Mondays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesdays-Thursdays 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Contact Customer Care at 1.855.213.8555 or info@gsnypenn.org for further assistance.

For more information on the council's ongoing response to coronavirus, visit gsnypenn.org/covid19. Updates are also being shared on social media at facebook.com/gsnypenn, twitter.com/GSNYPENN and instagram.com/gsnypenn.

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Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways, Inc.

Girl Scouts is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls. We believe in the power of every G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)™ to change the world. Our extraordinary journey began more than 100 years ago with the original G.I.R.L., Juliette Gordon "Daisy" Low. Today we continue the Girl Scout mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. GSNYPENN is chartered by Girl Scouts of the USA to administer the Girl Scout program in 24 counties of New York and two in Pennsylvania. We offer every girl a chance to practice a lifetime of leadership, adventure, and success. Girl Scouts serves girls in grades K-12. Annual membership is \$25. Financial assistance is available. To register a girl online, visit gsnypenn.org/join. To become an adult volunteer, learn more at gsnypenn.org/volunteer.