May 20, 2020

Grand Canyon Council Scouters,

We continue to monitor the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and (like many) we’re anxious for life and Scouting to get back to normal!

I appreciate the grace and courtesy I’ve encountered from you as we work through this challenge. The pandemic is unlike anything in our lifetimes and details continue to change.

I’m reminded of the Scout Law, especially words like helpful, friendly, courteous, and kind. I’m also reminded of the Cub Scout Motto – do your best. Our team is doing its best to support Scouting in a healthy and safe way.

Apologies in advance for the length of this message - a lot of details to update, with announcements related to unit, district, and council operations as well as updates on our Service Center and Scout Shop reopening.

**Unit Operations**

We recommend that units continue to meet virtually through June 30th. After that, units should coordinate with their charter partners to determine what is in the best interest of the Scouts and leaders within the context of local public health authorities, AZDHS, and the CDC.

When units restart operations, please be mindful that some leaders and/or youth may not be quite ready due to personal reasons. Let’s continue to live and follow the Scout Law as we work together to restart Scouting.

**District/Council Operations**

All district and council meetings, roundtables, Eagle Scout boards of review, etc., will continue as virtual meetings through June 30th.

**Summer Camps and Programs**

We continue to work toward a July opening of all GCC camps.

Our program team is reviewing evolving public health guidance and our programs will balance safety with adventure. Detailed plans, protocols, and standards are being developed and adjusted; these are being communicated directly to unit leaders so everyone can be prepared for a great camp experience.
Funds are still available via camperships for Scouts who need assistance. Please don’t let financial considerations keep any Scouts from attending!

**Scout Shop**

The Scout Shop in Mesa (1061 N Dobson Rd #109, Mesa, AZ 85201) will reopen July 1st. BSA Supply items are always available online.

**Scout Service Center**

We plan to announce the location of our new Scout Service Center soon and are working towards opening it in early July. Based on this timeline, we will not reopen the Phoenix Scout Service Center.

Our staff is working remotely and available by phone/internet to support all your Scouting needs. Keeping the Phoenix building closed during the transition to our new location will minimize customer service downtime.

**Stay Safe**

Remember to look after yourselves and your loved ones. Continue to monitor recommendations from local public health officials and remember to wash your hands.

As we close out this COVID-19 update, if you’ve not had an opportunity to contribute to Friends of Scouting, please go to https://www.grandcanyonbsa.org/support-scouting/ to make a contribution. These contributions fund Scouting in our council – these funds do not leave our local council and our budget is overseen by our all-volunteer Executive Board.

**Thanks**

Andy Price
Scout Executive/CEO