January 2021



Bryan / College Station Service Unit News

Area 3, Service Unit 700, Council Code 578

Message from the SUD

Happy New Year! I truly expect 2021 to be a wonderful year full of adventures- and the ability to hug those we love.

For the Girl Scouts, this is the kickoff to Cookie Sales. As I hear from GSCTX and Kim Wolfe, there are many exciting ways to sell that are new and different. This will certainly be one of the adventures for the spring!

Travel is starting to open up so girls can have adventures by visiting other places, especially as restrictions are lifted.

For our seniors getting ready to graduate this spring, be sure to apply for the Graduating Senior Scholarship. College is a great adventure, but it is expensive.

The start of this year has me a little shaken, but I believe that the American spirit is strong and the BCS Girl Scout Unit is working to build girls with strong character and the courage to do the right thing. I am so proud of all you do for our girls.



Spring 2021 Store Hours

Monday: 1:30-5 Tuesday: CLOSED Wednesday: 1:30-5 Thursday: CLOSED Friday: 1:30-5

Saturday: 11-4 (Jan 23, Feb 20, Mar 13, Apr 24 and May 22)

Address: 1737 Briarcrest, Suite 10

Serving the girls of Brazos County.

Helping to build girls of courage, confidence, and character.



The 2021 Girl Scouts of Central Texas Cookie Sales are **January 20 – February 28!**

To get ready for the event, there is a Mega Drop scheduled on January 16 at the Habitat for Humanity Warehouse. Contact Kim Wolfe if you do not have a scheduled pickup time.

Kim Wolfe is organizing the event and needs volunteers to help. Anyone volunteering is asked to be there no later than 9:30, although if you are able to help but not arrive by 9:30, come when you are free. Volunteers do not have to stay the entire time. Kim needs all the help she can get for this MEGA event

Visit the service unit online at: http://www.bcsgirlscouts.org/

Join us on Facebook! Girl Scouts-Bry/CS SU

Upcoming Events

All event registrations are accessed by clicking on the event name.

- 1/1/21 1/31/21
 Think Like a
 Programmer Online
 Journey (C, S, A, nonmembers gr 6-12)
- 1/16/21

 <u>Dance for the New</u>

 <u>Year!</u> (D, B)
- 1/17/21
 <u>Virtual Junior</u>
 <u>Simple Meals Dinner</u>
 (J, nonmembers
 gr. 4 5)
- 1/21/21
 <u>Virtual My First</u>
 <u>Badge- Eco Learner</u>
 (D, nonmembers
 <u>gr.</u> K 1)
- 1/25/21
 <u>Virtual</u>
 <u>STEMondays:</u>
 <u>Brownie Home</u>
 <u>Scientist</u> (B, nonmembers gr. 2-3)
- 1/26/21
 <u>Virtual Girl Scouts</u>
 <u>Information Meeting</u>
 (Adults)
- 1/27/21
 <u>Virtual Sing-Along</u>
 <u>with Girl Scouts</u> (D, nonmembers gr. K
 -1)
- 1/28/21
 <u>Virtual Awesome</u>
 <u>Girls: Building a</u>
 <u>Good Credit Score</u>
 (A, nonmembers
 gr. 11 12)

GSCTX Council Cookie Booth Guideline Updates

If state or local authorities take action to limit gathering sizes or access to businesses, Girl Scout Cookie booths should transition from walk-up booths to drive-through or curbside-pickup booths. Girl Scouts of Central Texas will provide guidance on managing this transition.

In all communities, friends and family and door-to-door sellers may take advantage of enhanced online ordering which now includes a girl delivery option that allows contactless payment and delivery. Girls can find resources to help promote their cookie sale <u>on our website</u> (more resources coming soon).

FAO's

Do you expect more booth format changes during the 2021 cookie program? At this time, we anticipate that drive-through, curbside-pickup, or walk-up booths will be available throughout the 2021 Girl Scout Cookie Program for girls who choose to participate in those options.

If COVID-19 restrictions change in my community during the cookie season, will my selling options be affected?

Yes. It is possible that state or local COVID-19 restrictions will change during the cookie season and therefore local booth format options may change accordingly.

How will I know if booth format options in my community have changed? Service Unit Cookie Managers will receive updates via their regularly scheduled weekly email communication from Girl Scouts of Central Texas. Updates will also be posted online on our COVID-19 Updates page.

How can I transition a walk-up booth to a drive-through or curbside-pickup format?

Girl Scouts of Central Texas will provide guidance regarding how to request the change in booth format from organizations that have agreed to allow booths at their location, as well as guidelines for managing the drive-through or curbside-pickup format.

Graduating Senior Scholarship

The Bryan-College Station Service Unit of Girl Scouts of Central Texas is pleased to offer our annual scholarship application.

If you are gearing up to start college next year, please cash in on this opportunity. There are three PDF files.

One: general information about the scholarship.

Two: the application itself.

Three: the form you will need to obtain two references.

The deadline is March 15, 2021.

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Council COVID Guidelines

In-Person Gatherings Guidelines updated 1/6/21

- Groups of 10 individuals or fewer may choose to meet in-person provided they comply with the <u>Minimum Standard Health Protocols outlined by Governor Abbott</u> and the guidance from the <u>Centers for Disease Control</u>, and they do not require indoor use of a Girl Scouts facility. Prior to meeting in-person, review Council In-Person Meeting Guidelines.
- Girl Scout groups are permitted to attend outdoor events provided they abide by the <u>Minimum Standard Health Protocols</u> set forth by the State of Texas for Outdoor Events.
- Service Units may choose to host in-person events for groups of 10 individuals or fewer, provided they comply with the <u>Minimum Standard Health Protocols</u> <u>outlined by Governor Abbott</u> and the guidance from the <u>Centers for Disease</u> <u>Control</u>, and they do not require indoor use of a Girl Scouts facility.
- Large gatherings of groups greater than 10 require approval from the local authority. Volunteers are required to submit the <u>online Activity and Travel</u>

 <u>Application</u> at least two weeks in advance. In Texas, the local authority would be the county judge. For example, search online for "Travis county judge", "Brazos county judge", etc. It should provide a link to the county judge's website. If there is no request form, you can email the county judge.
- All participants at in-person gatherings should provide a signed **COVID-19 Waiver** to the volunteer or coordinator.
- A few Girl Scout facilities are available to reserve for outdoor meetings of 10 people or fewer provided all outlined guidelines are followed.

Facilities and Council-led Programs

Service centers, shops, camps, and Girl Scout Houses will be closed to the public through March 31, 2021. Council staff is working remotely. Customer care remains accessible through <u>our website</u> and by phone at (800) 733-0011.

Visit <u>Girl Scouting at Home</u> to explore our virtual programming aligned with our four program pillars — STEM, outdoor leadership, entrepreneurship, and life

Virtual Meeting Resources

Groups are still encouraged to meet virtually. Visit <u>Virtual Meeting Resources</u> to learn more about how you can lead your troop and keep girls connected while maintaining social distancing.

Camp Reservations

Weekend camp reservations are now open for Spring 2021 only. <u>Guidance for</u> **Troop Camping During COVID-19**

Travel Guidelines

Effective Nov. 1, 2020

Approved Girl Scout troop/group overnight travel will be permitted.

Volunteers are required to submit the <u>online Activity</u> and Travel Application for all overnight trips and day trips over 100 miles at least two weeks in advance.

Domestic and international travel is permitted as long as the destination allows visitors from the home country/state/county/city.

Groups should check the <u>U.S. Department of</u> <u>State Travel Advisories</u> for intended international destinations.

Groups will need to demonstrate approval from the destination's local authority.

COVID-19 is a fluid situation. Groups accept the risks of cancellations due to changes in the destination travel status.



Visit the service unit online at: http://www.bcsgirlscouts.org/

Service Unit Important Names and Contact Information

Girl Scouts of Central Texas Staff: 800-733-0011

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open

National Delegate open

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Leah Cairns

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