

Dear GAC Scouting Family

Despite our hope to offer a full summer of programming at our Summer Camps and Day Camps, we are facing the harsh reality that we may not be able to offer our full summer camping experience. Based on the feedback from unit leaders, key stakeholders, local and state officials we have decided to cancel multiple sessions at camp this summer. Here is a breakdown of cancellations by program:

Comer Scout Reservation: All Sessions in June are **Canceled**.

Webelos Resident Camp at Comer in July: **Canceled**

Camp Sequoyah: All sessions for the summer are **Canceled**

Cub Scout Day Camp: All sessions in June are **Canceled**

Family Camp at Comer: **Canceled** but may be rescheduled as a weekend event

Our plan is to offer 4 weeks of camp programming in July, if there is any change in this we will let you know no later than June 12, 2020.

We reached this difficult decision based on a number of factors that took into account safety, availability of resources, availability of staff, guidelines on camp operations during this difficult environment. Some key factors were:

- The safety of our campers, leaders and staff are our top priority and we were not confident that we could keep the Covid-19 virus out camp and that we could maintain the important social distancing and disinfecting guidelines during the month of June.
- The coronavirus pandemic is far from contained and we do not want to create potential hot spots at our camps and day camps.
- Campers and leaders that attend our camps come from all over our state and from 6 different surrounding states that are all at different phases of mitigation and reopening.
- Guidelines from the CDC for organizations serving youth in a summer camp setting.
- Limited availability of testing that could be done on all of our camp staff employees to ensure they tested negative for Covid-19
- Some key staff had to withdraw their summer commitment due to the covid-19 pandemic leaving us without some key staff positions.

Summer Camp sessions offered in July, will be held at Comer Scout Reservation; we do not have the resources to operate both camps during these challenging times. Our plan now is to offer the following weeks at Comer Scout Reservation:

July 5-11
July 19-25

July 12-18
July 26-August 1

We will begin immediately refunding all fees that have been paid for camp and day camp, unless you want to change your reservation to July. We can roll your fee or deposit over to 2021 if you prefer, just email Seth Hill at seth.hill@scouting.org. In addition, our team will be contacting each unit directly to discuss with you any questions you have.

As your Scout Executive I can assure that this is a decision we did not make lightly but we felt it was necessary. Thanks to our task force that helped to guide this process, Austin Landry, VP of Camping, George Elliott, VP of Properties, Ed O'Neal, VP of Program, Ron Moore, Council Commissioner, Greg King, Chairman of the Board, Seth Hill, Camp Director, Comer Scout Reservation, Drew Hataway, Camp Director, Camp Sequoyah, & Chris Laycock, Director of Support Service.

Additional Options offered this Summer:

Family Day Camp @Home for Cub Scout Youth

This will be a Family Day Camp experience at your home. We will offer multiple options and resources. This program will include a Day Camp @home program box that will be sent to each participant. We will send out separate registration info, session dates and registration fee later this month.

Camp Connected:

Camp Connected is a virtual camping experience for Scouts BSA participants offered by the Greater Alabama Council in June. Scouts can participate in merit badges, virtual campfires and programs, online challenges and much more. Look for more information later this month about this innovative Scouting opportunity.

Unit Camping at Council Camps for Scout BSA Units

Multiple camping opportunities will be offered for individual units to register and do a mini-camping session at our camp properties. This type of program will be limited to a few units at a time throughout the summer and will give unit leaders the flexibility to provide a limited summer camp experience.

Weekend Specialty Camps in August\September for Scouts BSA Youth

In addition to our Fishing Weekend at Camp Jackson in August we are going to offer some additional specialty weekends for Scouts BSA youth to participate in please stay tuned for more information as we announce each program session.

Thanks to each of you for what you do for Scouting in our community. Your ability to keep scouting going during this difficult time is appreciated, and we look forward to the opportunity to once again gather at camp in the near future.

Sincerely,

J.T.Dabbs, III
Scout Executive
Greater Alabama Council
Boy Scouts of America