

## Key 3 Corner - COVID 19 Update

To Our Scouting Family and Friends,

If there is one positive from this pandemic that we can learn from, it's that under the face of adversity, Scouting has found a way to keep Scouts connected, resilient, and innovative. COVID-19 has challenged each of us as families, volunteers, and staff to find new ways to deliver the life changing experiences and the life lessons our Scouts have come to expect in environments where they can thrive, learn, and have fun.

There is little doubt that change is hard. Most don't deal with change easily. Every day, the Mount Baker Council is called upon to make course corrections in how we serve families and units. Our top priority remains the safety of our members and helping to stop the spread of this virus in the community. We are very proud of the work our unit leaders and program staff have done to ensure a safe place to give kids the chance to enjoy Scout programs. Thank you to all our leaders for making this possible.

Unfortunately, Scouting is still under the control of the pandemic. We remain vigilant in monitoring the safety conditions. Fortunately, the Boy Scouts of America, the Mount Baker Council, and its core of great volunteers are finding new ways to deliver programs, raise operating funds, and recruit new members. From virtual Roundtables, unit meetings and activities, and other events, Scouting is evolving and adjusting to our new environment. Your patience, feedback, and innovative suggestions are needed to ensure Scouting moves forward.

### Unit Meetings

All units are asked to follow best practices in conducting meetings. Please use virtual meetings where you can. Please continue following the guidelines that were outlined at the following link: <https://www.mountbakerbsa.org/restarting-scouting/>. If your unit is not meeting currently, please contact your district executive for help getting your program back up and running for the new school year.

### Program Update

The Fall Wood Badge course has been postponed until 2021.

The Scouting at Home committee has launched the One Million Minutes Community Service campaign. They are posting on our Facebook page numerous ways our Scouts can do their duty to our communities. Additional new fall programs are now being developed. Stay tuned to see what exciting Scout activities will be offered to meet the needs of our Scouts.

### Preparing for the Fall

Our volunteer teams and staff have been working on ways to help our units get back on track to begin meetings. This is key to retaining our current Scouts and recruiting new families into our program. A new membership recruitment plan is being shared with Packs to help address limited school access to recruit new families. The Membership Committee is also developing a recognition program for our current Scouts recruiting their friends into their unit. All members can stay in the know by plugging in to our social media sites to receive instant information about Scouting.

No more can we say, “that’s not the way we have always done it.” Scouting may be changing how we deliver program but not the what. Everyday Scouts around the country, our state and our communities raise their hand and recite the Scout Oath and Law. They make new discoveries about our world and learn new skills for life. They have fun with their friends and mentors. They experience the new things. These parts of Scouting will not change.

To all of our Scouting units; it’s time to get in the game and on the playing field. We can’t wait for Scouting to get back to “normal.” The Mount Baker Council stands ready to support our units this fall, and help you use Scouting to its fullest to deliver an ideal year of Scouting in this new environment. Please do not hesitate to ask for help rather than quit. Together we are finding better ways to deliver programs that are meaningful, relevant, and fun for our children. Thank you for being part of the solution.

#Scout On!