

A Message of Support from Our Council Leadership

To our Girl Scout Families,

Our hearts are heavy as we process the tragic shooting that occurred this weekend in Shreveport. As an organization rooted in compassion, courage, and the well-being of girls, we are deeply saddened by this act of violence. On behalf of the entire staff and Board of Directors at Girl Scouts of Louisiana – Pines to the Gulf, I want to extend our heartfelt sympathy to the families affected and to the entire community as we grieve this senseless loss.

Moments like this stir many emotions, sadness, fear, anger, confusion, and it's natural for both adults and children to feel unsettled. Please know that we stand with you. Our mission has always been to create a safe, inclusive, and supportive space for every girl to grow into her strongest self, and that commitment matters now more than ever. We are here for our volunteers, our troops, and especially our girls as they navigate this difficult time.

Supporting Your Girls Through Difficult Conversations

As you care for your families, you may be wondering how to talk with your daughters about what has happened. Child development experts often recommend the following approaches:

- **Limit Media Exposure** — Reducing access to graphic news coverage and social media can help ease anxiety and prevent overwhelm.
- **Open, Gentle Dialogue** — Let your girls know you're available to talk. Invite them to share their feelings, and answer their questions simply and honestly, focusing on the helpers and the resilience of our community.
- **Maintain Routine** — Keeping up with familiar activities, including troop meetings, can provide comfort and stability.
- **Reassure Safety** — Remind them that they are safe, cared for, and surrounded by adults who are working hard to protect them.
- **Watch for Signs** — Notice changes in behavior—withdrawal, sleep disruptions, clinginess—and offer extra patience, time, and reassurance.

Activities Troop Leaders Can Use With Their Troops

Troop meetings can be a grounding, healing space. Here are gentle, age-appropriate activities leaders may use to support girls right now:

- **Circle of Support** — Invite girls to share one word about how they're feeling (or allow them to pass). This helps normalize emotions without pressuring anyone to speak.
- **Kindness Chain** — Have each girl write or draw one act of kindness she can offer this week. Link the strips into a paper chain to symbolize community strength.
- **Gratitude Stones** — Provide small stones for girls to decorate with a word or symbol of hope. These can be kept as reminders of resilience.
- **Quiet Reflection Time** — A short moment of silence, deep breathing, or a calming mindfulness activity can help girls feel centered.
- **Celebrating Helpers** — Create cards or posters thanking first responders, teachers, or community helpers. Focusing on positive action can restore a sense of agency.
- **Service as Healing** — If appropriate, consider a simple troop service project that channels compassion into action.

These activities are meant to be gentle, optional, and adaptable leaders should use what feels right for their troop.

Our Commitment to You

Girl Scouts is a community defined by empathy, courage, and connection. In times of hardship, we lean on one another, we show up for our neighbors, and we model the values we teach our girls every day.

Our council remains committed to supporting our families in every way we can. If your troop or family needs additional guidance or resources, please reach out to our council office. We are here to help.

Let us continue to hold one another close. Together, we will move forward with compassion and strength.

With deepest sympathy and support,
Rachel Broussard
Chief Executive Officer
Girl Scouts of Louisiana – Pines to the Gulf