



A Message of Support from Our Council Leadership

To our Girl Scout Families,

Our hearts are heavy as we process the continued violence impacting communities across our state and the profound effect it is having on our youth. In recent days, our community has been shaken by a youth-involved shooting at the Mall of Louisiana and by the devastating news that three high school students from the Lafayette region were victims of gun violence, one of whom tragically lost their life. When violence touches places our families gather and involves young people, it can deeply affect a child's sense of safety and belonging. On behalf of the entire staff and Board of Directors at Girl Scouts of Louisiana – Pines to the Gulf, we extend our deepest sorrow to the victims, their families, and loved ones, and we grieve alongside our community at large during this painful time.

As an organization rooted in compassion, courage, and the well-being of girls, we are deeply saddened by these acts of violence. Moments like this stir many emotions, sadness, fear, anger, confusion, and it is 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.

Our Commitment to You

Girl Scouts is a community defined by empathy, courage, and connection. In moments of hardship, we lean on one another, show up for our neighbors, and model the values we teach our girls every day. Our council remains steadfast in our commitment to the emotional well-being and safety of our girls, our volunteers, and our families.

If your troop or family needs additional guidance, resources, or support, please reach out to our council office by contacting info@gslpg.org. We are here to help, listen, and walk alongside you during this time.

As part of that commitment, we want remind you of the helpful information and resources that were shared earlier this week. They are designed to support our

families and troop leaders during times like this and may continue to be useful as you talk with your girls and support one another in the days ahead.

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).
- **Kindness Chain** — Have each girl write or draw one act of kindness she can offer this week.
- **Gratitude Stones** — Provide small stones for girls to decorate with a word or symbol of hope.
- **Quiet Reflection Time** — A brief moment of silence, deep breathing, or mindfulness.
- **Celebrating Helpers** — Create cards or posters thanking first responders, teachers, or community helpers.
- **Service as Healing** — When appropriate, consider a simple troop service project that channels compassion into action.

These activities are optional and adaptable. Leaders should use what feels right for their troop.

Let us continue to hold one another close. Together, we will move forward with compassion, strength, and care for our girls and our communities.

With deepest sympathy and support,

Rachel Broussard
Chief Executive Officer
Girl Scouts of Louisiana – Pines to the Gulf