girl scouts of the chesapeake bay

4142 Ogletown Stanton Road
PMB #312
Newark, DE 19713
T: 800.341.4007
F: 302.456.7188
www.gscb.org

A Message from the CEO:
GSCB Private Residence Authorization Policy

Delmarvalous Leaders of the Chesapeake Bay,

As I continue to dig through our Blue Book, Bylaws, and policies, I am getting a better handle on decisions that were made, policies that were written, and how they impact our ability to achieve the mission of the organization. I am grateful for your Executive Leadership Team as questions are asked, and we have both history and expanded knowledge of other councils as we review them.

While we are working through each one, some of them are popping up as more urgent to address based on our season. Right now, we are in our kickoff and recruitment season. Based on this, some questions have arisen about our policy around **meeting in private homes.**

Safety and protection of girls and adults is the top priority of Girl Scouting, and girls will benefit from the safe environment that allows them to be at their best while developing critical leadership-building skills. Our adults will benefit best by mitigating personal risk so they can focus on the joys of leadership. GSUSA does not encourage using your own home as a meeting location for regularly scheduled troop meetings. This should be a last resort if the troop cannot find another public place to meet.

In reviewing the whys: the high amount of liability on the volunteer holding the meeting, the expanded need to do background checks on all adults in the household, the need to ensure items such as guns, medicines, and cleaning supplies are more secure then the homeowner may typically feel, and the need for all levels of access for any Girl Scout who wishes to join that Troop; the Girl Scouts of Chesapeake Bay has in place a policy that is in alignment with GSUSA recommendations and neighboring council policies.

We are aware that some Troops do meet in private homes, and I trust we are all following the guidelines. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the policy and know that it is with your girl's safety in mind that it was implemented in years past and will continue to be implemented for the safety of our girls and the mitigation of risk for our adults.

Yours in service,



Theresa Young
Chief Executive Officer
Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay