Girl Scouts have always stepped up in times of need, and our current COVID-19 crisis is no different. All across our country and our world, Girl Scouts have leapt to the aid of others by engaging in wonderful acts of service and kindness. Now you can get involved on a global scale too!

LETTER-WRITING SERVICE PROJECT

The idea is simple: girls write letters to people in nursing homes, senior residences, and assisted living facilities, including the dedicated staff and caregivers. This long-distance hug is a way to share your good thoughts with these vulnerable and loved community members.

1. Write letters to seniors and caretakers across the country. Use the recommendations on the following page to get started.

2. It’s a big world, and what better way to experience it than on a global scale? Mail letters to any of the listed facilities found on this list (PDF). Pick a location on this list and learn at least one fact about that city or state. When writing your letter, share what you learned and provide one fact about your city or state.

3. Visit the GSUSA National Service Project website and log the number of letters to add them to the national campaign! Let’s see how many letters of love and care our Movement can send!

4. Take a picture of your letters and post them to your social media networks using #GirlScoutsGiveBack and #GirlScoutsofKentuckiana.

5. Patches will be available for purchase from the Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana Shop Order Form by following this link.
TIPS FOR WRITING LETTERS TO SENIORS AND CARETAKERS

Send a long-distance hug with a heartfelt letter to seniors, their caretakers, and other people who can benefit from knowing that you’re thinking of them. See below for some recommendations on how to write and share these notes.

What should I know before I write my letter?

**Write it by hand.** Giving your message a personal touch can show your reader how much you care. Plus, it’s your unique stamp! No one has your handwriting but you.

**Make it neat.** Make sure your recipient can read the wonderful words you write to them!

**Make it personal.** Let your creative side shine with bright colors, glitter pens, drawings, and other personal touches!

**Don’t write the date.** While we often want to mark the date that we write letters, it may take longer than normal for this letter to be delivered. Leaving off the date will help your reader feel special and remembered even if they receive it late.

What should I write about?

“Thank you” or “Thinking of you”—pick one! Are you writing to a resident at a nursing home? Want to thank a caregiver? Decide what type of note you’re writing and let the message guide your writing.

**Be kind and thoughtful.** When you begin to write, think carefully about what you want to say and how you can spread kindness. Consider how you can craft a unique message that comes from your heart. How can you make the card extra special?

**Be creative.** Use your creativity, imagination, and talents to make your note fun and unique! Consider drawing a picture, decorating your note, or adding in a puzzle that you create or a game you love.

**Start with “Dear Friend.”** Even if you don’t know your reader by name, starting with “Dear Friend” will make them feel special and cared for.

**Introduce yourself.** Let your reader know who you are and why you’re writing.

**Send positive thoughts.** Share your positivity and well wishes. What do you hope for your reader right now? Is there anything you’d like to thank them for?

**Give some personal flair.** Share something that only you can. Is there something you’ve been doing that you want that person to know about? Can you share a story that will make them happy?

**Avoid religion and personal views.** Since we don’t know exactly who will receive your letter, make sure that your note is kind and broad—so that anyone who receives it will feel that it is meant for them.

**Sign your first name.** Sign your name to the letter to show your reader it’s coming from a kind and genuine person: you. While it’s important that this letter come from you, don’t share more personal information (like your last name, home address, or phone number)—if the reader knows your name and that you’re a Girl Scout, that’s more than enough.

For Adults and Troop Leaders:

Check out some more [detailed guidance](#) (PDF) for adults and Troop Leaders.

Don’t forget to include a [note to tell the staff about the letters you’re sending](#) (DOC).