Welcome

* Hi, welcome, thanks for watching
* Thanks to Lauren for last week, didn’t she do a great job? I really liked the 11 things we have learned in 11 weeks of lockdown.
* So, its bumper episode this week, with some things to share with you that have been happening, your stories, some presentations to make and what’s coming up! So here we go…

This week

* 2 GSL & District meetings with two lovely districts, I know the Forest had theirs this week too. Good to stay connected
* Spent some time looking at a number of pages on our website, recently updated the Mental Health support pages within the People area and cleaned up our very busy (IZZY) website
* Also this week, your managers will have received an email advising them at every group and every district can sign up for a Zoom pro account to be able to run meetings with young people, exec meetings or leader meetings. Speak to your GSL about making sure someone has registered. This normally costs £14 a month, and now free to Scouting until November so make sure you sign up.
* You might have seen that the Great Indoors Staged Activity Badge has launched recently too. Your young people can work towards a badge in any age group whether in Scouting or not. You can sign up at scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors
* I’m really pleased to hear that the Carry On Scouting badge has had over 4,000 orders so far. Well done to the Forest Of Dean for coming up with this great initiative and well done to all of those young people out there that are completing it.
* This week is Volunteers week 2020, I have really enjoyed hearing from different people across our County on our Gloucestershire Scouts Facebook page, I am humbled and so thankful for everything that every one of our volunteers continues to do even in these strange and uncertain times.
* You are all amazing, everyone of you.

Your stories

* You may remember me telling you about Seb Braun a couple of weeks ago, he’s the leader from Wotton Under Edge Beavers who is cycling 40km every week to deliver an activity to each of their Beavers. Well, he like many of you has also been presenting Top Awards and other badges to their young people. The fact that you are continuing to support young people in gaining badges, and in particular their top awards is amazing news. Thank you so much, and well done to everyone.
* Ang – Cub Leader at 1st Royal Forest in the Forest of Dean knocked on my door and I’ll tell you why later. Anyway, she explained how she was on her way to all of her cubs dropping off an activity and how she has been having weekly Zoom calls with the Cubs. I since read that she spent 6 hours visiting her Cubs and chatting with parents. That’s a lot of doorsteps! Thank you Ang.
* I’d also like to talk to you about Steve the Scout. Steve, a Leader in Gloucester has been recording videos and sharing them via YouTube showing you and young people how to do some Scouting skills, like knots, building camp gadgets and firelighting. You can find them on our coronavirus webpage in the remote programme ideas section, or search YouTube for Steve the Scout.

Presentations

As a County Commissioner, one of the most excellent things that I get to do is to make presentations. It’s amazing to do it for adults, but it’s also fantastic to be able to do presentations to youth members.

I’d like to present some certificates to members of the Gloucestershire Scouts Ten Tors team. If you don’t know what Ten Tors Challenge is, it is challenge to navigate routes of up to 55 miles across Dartmoor visiting 10 check points, and carrying all of their own equipment, in less than 2 days. It’s a real challenge and we had a team of teenagers who were almost complete with all of their training to complete a 45 mile route, just before the event sadly got cancelled.

So in recognition of all of their hard work in preparation for the challenge, I’d like to present one of [these] certificates virtually, for now, to

* Amber Pilley
* David Jackson
* Dominic Trowbridge
* Grace Southgate
* Isabelle Poole
* Jack Stone
* Matthew Trowbridge
* Rhys Herschell-Burns

Well done all of you, I have heard that you all worked really hard and were working really well as a team. When we can, we’ll get together and have a face to face presentation.

Thanks to Paul Rothwell for leading this team.

Coming up

Wow, there are lot of things coming up, so I’ll fly through them briskly…

Next weekend is our Water Activity Day. Thanks again to the Forest of Dean, we have pulled together a pack of 12 activities based around a water theme that you and your young people can work through. The great news is, we have done all the work for you, all of the instructions as well as a video on how to do each of the challenges is on our website. All you have to do is share it with your parents and young people. It would be great to see as many people getting involved as is possible.

Thanks to Ruthie and the amazing programme team for this

The following weekend is S&E at home weekend, a weekend packed full of fun and activities as you would come to expect from the S&E team. It is focused around next weekend, with activities running on into the following week. If you or young people are missing your fix of S&E fun, you can still sign up to take part at s-e.org.uk.

Finally, I spoke recently about our Goose event being cancelled, well I can now confirm that you and your young people may still want to keep the weekend of the 18th – 20th September free as we will be hosting Virtual Goose. The details are being worked through as I share this with you, so keep the date in your diary and your eyes peeled.

And finally…

Well, since I mentioned that soon you will not be able to see my face, I have been inundated with neckers… I don’t know what to make of that!

So, thanks goes to 45th Gloucester for this necker. They have been doing weekly Zoom meetings and Eric, one of their cubs has recently achieved his Silver award just before he goes up to Scouts. Well done Eric and thanks to 45th Gloucester for the necker.

Last week Lauren shared with you what 1st Woodmancote have been upto, and they have sent me this necker. Thank you

1st Upton St. Leonards have sent me this necker with their new group badge on it showing the Lions of the group. Thank you.

And finally Ang who spent 6hrs travelling around her cubs earlier this week stopped off at my home and gave me a necker for 1st Royal Forest. Thank you

Thanks for all of your neckers, don’t forget if you want me to wear your group’s scarf, get in contact. The thing I love most about receiving the neckers is the letters that you are taking time to write to go with them. It is wonderful to hear all about what you are doing, thank you.

Round up

So, that’s week 12 of these updates, I hope you find them of some use. Don’t forget there is lots of additional information and support on our webpage at [www.gscouts.org.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gscouts.org.uk/coronavirus)

Thanks for watching, stay safe and again, thank you so much for all that you do.