

March 23, 2020

Dear Pushmataha Area Council family,

First, I hope you and your loved ones are doing well. Stephanie and I are doing fine...doing the same type of things you all are doing...a little more TV time, reading, chores around the house. And of course, social distancing at home as well...like in other rooms at times...because absence makes the heart grow fonder...and it keeps me from driving Stephanie crazy. I think Maddie enjoys her daddy being around a bit more as well...here is a picture if you have never seen Maddie...



Now, here are some updates Scouting and council related...

- The council service center in Columbus will be closed effective March 23 through April 17, coinciding with the current Mississippi school closing order. I will continue to work, sometimes from the service center, sometimes elsewhere. I am available any day of the week: jeremy.whitmore@scouting.org or 706-231-9886.
- As announced earlier, all council activities are cancelled and Camp Seminole closed through May 6 with our next scheduled "in person" group gathering to be Roundtable on May 7.
- Also, as announced earlier, we are asking all Units not to meet coinciding with school closures. Once schools reopen the decision to start meetings again will depend on recommendations from the CDC and National BSA with determination made by the Unit Committee and Chartered Organization. However, that does not mean Scouting needs to come to a complete stop...
- I am pleased to announce the rollout of our council's brand new website:

www.pushmataha.org

I hope you will take a look around. Like any website it still needs expanding and information added...which will continue to happen probably daily in these early stages. But I hope you find this to be a valuable resource as your "go to" place for all information council and Scouting related. At a minimum I encourage you to check out the BSA's "Scouting At Home" page that is available through the RED box link on our council's front page. A special Scout Salute to Allen McBroom for his many years of service maintaining our previous council website. And special thanks to George Banzhaf for his initial set up work and training me on our new site's platform.

- As with many families, businesses and organizations the weeks and months ahead will be financially challenging for our council, above and beyond the "usual" financial challenges of a small, non-profit organization. If you have the ability, and have not already done so, I would appreciate your consideration to go to our online donation site, available from our council website, and make a pledge to our 2020 Family Friends of Scouting campaign. Contributions in any amount are appreciated!
- In addition to our council website be sure to LIKE our council Facebook page for ongoing updates and information. Link: <https://www.facebook.com/pushmatahaareacouncil>

Yours in Scouting,



Jeremy Whitmore, Scout Executive