Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan

How To Host A Virtual Troop Meeting

CHOOSE A VIRTUAL PLATFORM

First things first: Decide how you'll stay connected. Depending on their ages, ask your girls how they'd like to get together as a troop. Don't worry if they're using a web or social platform you're not as familiar with, because you'll learn right alongside them!

There are several different virtual tools you can use to host an online meeting. Zoom is the preferred option, but it's really up to you and your troop. Here are some suggestions to help:

Zoom: zoom.com
Google Classroom: classroom.google.com
Skype: skype.com
Go To Meeting: gotomeeting.com
Google Hangouts: hangouts.google.com
WhatsApp: whatsapp.com
ezTalks: eztalks.com
Free Conference Call: freeconferencecall.com

Younger girls should be monitored by a parent during a troop meeting, and have a 1:1 girl-to-adult ratio. Older Girl Scouts can follow the standard Girl Scout ratio for their level.

SAMPLE VIRTUAL TROOP MEETING AGENDA

- Arrival Activity (15 mins)
  Everyone logs in and gets their technology sorted out. Consider having a welcome question on the screen during this time for the girls to answer in the chat box while everyone arrives.

  If you have older girls, have them take turns running a warmup game to open the meeting. This could be something like a trivia game, virtual get to know you, or a scavenger hunt/race to collect household items that may go along with the theme of your activity/badge work. Allow yourself an extra 5-10 minutes for this option.

  Pro Tip: Make sure you ask girls to mute themselves as they arrive. Have a note up on the screen on how to mute/unmute.

- Opening (5 mins)
  Recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law, or even sing a song together. Whatever you'd normally say or sing together at the beginning of a meeting, keep it up!

- Business (5 mins)
  You can share any news and important announcements here.

- Main Activity (15-30 mins)
  This is a great time to work on badge or Journey activities! Think about what you can send the girls the day before or the morning of the meeting so that they can come in prepared to interact. That helps you make the most of your time.

- Closing (5 mins)
  A modified Friendship Circle is possible! Instead of squeezing a hand, have each girl say the name of another person in your virtual circle after she makes her wish. Or, ask your girls what a virtual friendship circle might look like; instead of squeezing hands, they could share something good that happened in the past week or something they admire about another member. You might even have the girls sing their favorite Girl Scout song! It's hard not to smile while singing, and some girls might really need that positivity boost right now. Encourage the girls to be creative!

TROOP MEETING ACTIVITY IDEAS

Make sure to brainstorm what activities your girls would be interested in doing for future meetings. With most platforms you can screenshare, so anything that you can put on your screen, like videos, pictures, and more, can be part of your meeting—the sky's the limit! Feeling stuck? Join one of GSSEM's scheduled Facebook LIVE! events for some virtual inspiration. (facebook.com/gssem)

- Get silly: Play charades, Taboo, or Pictionary. Have a scavenger hunt for silly items that might be around the house.
- Get the wiggles out: Do yoga or have a dance party together.
- Quiet together time: Read stories aloud or do a group add-a-line story. If you have a Daisy troop, read a Petal story!
- Get artistic: Draw portraits of one another and share.
- Explore STEM: Create a racecar from found materials. Share favorite recipes and send them out for others to try. Create a cookbook. Have a Top Chef challenge. Share at-home science experiments.
- Learn more about each other: Share best and worst things that happened today (Rose, bud, thorn).
- Including all Girl Scouts: Learn the Promise (and Law) in American Sign Language or other languages. Check out WAGGGS resources for international ideas.
- For older girls: Watch a TED Talk and discuss. Create your own videos.
- Share a favorite podcast or online game (give a review for it).
- Have girls make short video of themselves reciting a poem, teaching a game, teaching a recipe, signing a song, showing some home-made creation, sharing a household chore tip... anything! Create a playlist and have a Facebook Watch Party to watch them all together!
- Girls may just want to have a space to spend time together as we all navigate this new process.

When girls take the lead, great things happen! Even though your daily routine may have changed, Girl Scouts will always be here for you and your girls. You can be a Girl Scout anywhere, even from home. Thank you for being an awesome leader!

Thank you to Girl Scouts of Northern California for this adaptation.