Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan

Virtual Troop Meeting FAQ & Tips

VIRTUAL MEETING FAQ & TIPS

Do I need to maintain girl-to-adult safety ratios even though it's not an in-person meeting?
Parents should be monitoring their younger girls' use of the computer. If they are doing that, then ratios are 1:1. Older girls can communicate with their troop leader and others in the virtual setting and can follow the standard Girl Scout girl-to-adult ratios.

Troop leaders: Be sure to follow the Safety Activity Checkpoints for Virtual Meetings.

What if the internet isn't available to some of our girls and their families?
Many online platforms have cell phone apps, as well as call-in options. Your girls do not need a computer to participate. Keep in mind you may need to modify some of your activities if not all girls can see you.

What if the girls drop off the call and can't get back in?
As Girl Scouts, we're always prepared! If you can, and if it's age appropriate, send out a meeting agenda beforehand. Some virtual platforms also have the capability to record meetings. This is a nice back-up option for your girls to use in case of technical difficulties! Make sure to confirm consent to be recorded by girls' parents if you do so.

What if my girls aren't engaged with the meeting content?

- Engagement can vary by age level. We know that our younger members may need more parent support than our older girls. Make sure to include physical activities like a scavenger hunt, stretch breaks, and keep the activities short and sweet!

- Manage your expectations. For many girls, the social interaction may be the most important aspect of a virtual troop meeting. If they need to use the space to simply be together, that's okay too. "Meeting" with their friends will recharge their batteries, and they can support one another just by talking and listening.

- Go over the badge/activity girls voted on. See if their interests have changed. Take another poll and brainstorm with girls on ways to make the badge content interesting.

What if my girls don't have the materials they need to complete badge activities?
Encourage your girls to problem-solve and think outside of the box. Are there alternative, freely available materials? Could the same concept be covered in a different way? Could they pair up with other girls who do have materials and work together via video chat?

How can I make my Zoom meeting safe for my troop?
Remember to check your Zoom settings to ensure your meeting is only accessible to you and your troop! Zoom has rich security controls to keep your Girl Scout meetings secure. For a detailed guide on how to secure your meetings, check out Zoom's official security recommendations. Overall, the best practices for securing your meetings are as follows:

- Make all conference meetings **password protected**.
- Change your screen sharing to **"Host only."**
- Disable **"Join before host"** so you have full control over who begins the meeting.
- Disable **"File transfer"** to protect you from digital viruses.
- Disable **"Allow removed participants to rejoin"** so that removed attendees can't rejoin.
- **Don't share meeting links** on public-facing platforms.

For even more meeting security, you can:

- **Disable all non-host screen sharing capabilities**, making sure screen share capabilities remain host-only.
- **Enable the "Waiting Room" feature**, which allows hosts of the meetings to see participants in a virtual staging area so they can be vetted before joining.

Just know that the second set of recommendations may make it more difficult for actual invited participants to share appropriate content in your meeting.

If you still have concerns on securing your meeting, you can contact Zoom Support directly for further assistance.

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