

Virtual and At Home Resources Guide

Transatlantic Council - Boy Scouts of America



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As we continue to face the COVID-19 pandemic, we recognize the challenges this situation creates for our leaders, Scouts and families. Our leaders have been using a multitude of resources to keep Scouts excited and engaged in Scouting even when they can't meet face to face. We have compiled resources that you may use during your virtual meetings or for Scouting at home. We will be updating this guide frequently and will keep on sharing success stories during the monthly Edelweiss District Roundtable on the third Wednesday of every month at 8:00pm CST. For more information, please visit the Roundtable [webpage](#).

The resources in this guide have been added to the following categories:

[Virtual Meetings](#)

- [Platforms](#)
- [Virtual Meeting Guidance](#)
- [Activities During Virtual Meetings](#)

[Online Lesson Aids](#) – as featured by guest speaker in the Edelweiss Nov RT **NEW**

[There is an app for that ...](#) **NEW**

[Lessons Learned and Advice](#) **NEW**

[Scouting Outdoors](#)

[Scouting at Home](#)

[Resources for Parents](#)

[Resources for Adult Learning](#)

[Additional Resources](#)

We will continue updating this resource and will make it available on the TAC-BSA [website](#) and the [TAC Nation Facebook Group](#). Our aim is to support our leaders, Scouts and their families and to strengthen our community in challenging times by providing them with resources to continue Scouting. If you know of a valuable resource that is not yet listed, please email roundtableforscouting@gmail.com.

**No TAC-BSA endorsement implied.
Information listed is subject to change.
See links provided for updated details.**

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Virtual Meetings

Make virtual meetings fun and interactive. The tools outlined below provide you with a few options. Before we list tool names and links, we would like to stress that it is important to first review guidelines that have been developed to keep everyone safe.

As always, please remember to adhere to Youth Protection practices and consult the [Digital Safety and Online Scouting Activities](#) web page for additional guidance regarding youth safety. Scouting volunteers need to practice two-deep leadership with all communication—emails, texts, phone calls, online video platforms, etc. Be aware that the recording of online activities/meetings that include youth participants is not allowed.

It's important that your Scouts have the right expectations and share these with their families:

- Emphasize that the meeting is an official BSA meeting.
- Adhere to Youth Protection guidelines.
- Set expectations: normal unit uniform/attire should be worn.
- Begin meetings with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Include the Scout Oath and Law, as appropriate.
- Include an opening invocation, as appropriate.
- When possible and appropriate, conduct the meeting in a manner similar to an in-person meeting.
- When possible, close the meeting in accordance with your normal manner.

Platforms

The following video conferencing solutions are all offered as options for meeting virtually and are not sponsored or endorsed by the Boy Scouts of America.

These are good options for medium to large groups and are always or currently free. All have video and/or audio along with screen sharing capabilities.

Zoom

<https://zoom.us/>

This platform allows you to conduct a live video chat across different devices and platforms. Benefits include the ability to easily screen-share during a call, hold brainstorming sessions with Zoom's on-screen whiteboard feature, break out into meeting rooms of fewer people to facilitate collaboration, broadcast to different platforms, and access meeting analytics and reports. Start using for free, as Zoom's free plan lets you host up to 100 participants in a 40- minute video call.

Tips:

- Password protect your meetings
- Authenticate users
- Lock down your meeting
- Use waiting rooms
- Turn off participant screen sharing
- Annotation can help make the presentation more interact. Learn how [here](#).
- Do not record meetings that include youth participants



You will find detailed instructions on how to use Zoom for virtual Scouting [here](#).

Using Zoom for Virtual Scouting [PDF](#) | [PPT](#)

[How To Join a Zoom Meeting](#)

[Scheduling a Zoom Meeting](#)

[Sharing Your Screen](#)

[Meeting Controls](#)

[Breakout Rooms](#)

[Zoom Whiteboard](#)

[Recording a Zoom Meeting](#)

[Polling in Zoom Meeting](#)

[Zoom Reports](#)

[How to Prevent Recording in Zoom](#)

Webex:

<https://www.webex.com/>

The platform offers free accounts, meetings that can accommodate up to 100 participants, and an unlimited length for meetings. Meetings can be conducted using a web browser, desktop app or mobile app.

Google Meet:

<https://meet.google.com/>

The platform offers free accounts, meetings that can accommodate up to 100 participants, and limits the maximum length for meetings to 60 minutes. Meetings can be conducted using a web browser or the mobile app. Drawback: This platform requires every participant to have a Google account. (Participants can sign up for one [here](#)).

Our friends from the UK created a tutorial on how to use Google Meet. View it [here](#).

Virtual Meeting Guidance

- **Cub Scouts:**

Den leaders might encourage parents and/or guardians to open up the appropriate handbook for their children's Cub Scout den and work on requirements together with the Scout. This approach could help strengthen family bonds. At the Cub Scout level, virtual meetings through various internet platforms might not be feasible, so encouraging hands-on activities at home and sharing personal photos of these interactions with other pack families could provide the needed positive energy during this time.

- **Scouts BSA:**

Troop leaders should be creative in holding meetings via internet platforms. Patrol leaders, senior patrol leaders, and scoutmasters could encourage Scouts to work on Scout skills at home. Again, sharing photos and/or videos of these activities can spread motivation to other Scouts to keep up with their advancement. Likewise, this is a perfect time to work on Merit Badges, to plan conservation projects, to research future troop and patrol outings, etc.



Virtual Meeting Guidance (continued)

- **Venturing:**

Similarly, Venturers might take this time to plan future high adventure outings for their crews and work on advancement. Most importantly, though, Cubmasters and Scoutmasters could reach out to crew presidents and advisors, recruiting Venturers to motivate their Cubs and Scouts to continue activities and to serve as instructors and mentors even if at a distance.

Best Practices:

- [Securing Virtual Meetings for Scouting](#)
- [Setting up Registration for a Meeting](#)
- [Successful Virtual Meetings](#)

Make your meeting look a bit more vibrant using backgrounds. Platforms, such as Zoom, allow you to use a custom background. Consider a themed background for each meeting. [Here](#) are instructions on how to do it.

You can find free backgrounds on the following websites:

[BSA Brand Center](#)

[Look Wilder Still](#)

Activities during Virtual Meetings

Just listening to one person speak is boring. Listening to everyone speak at the same time creates chaos, so why not create a way to test your Scouts knowledge using online quizzes?

Here are a few options to choose from. These apps can be used as a gathering or main event.

- [Kahoot!](#)
Kahoot is a free, fun way to make your meeting more exciting. The learning games, "kahoots", are user-generated multiple-choice quizzes that can be accessed via a web browser or the Kahoot app. Pro: Once you have an account you can copy Kahoots that have already been created by other users and customize them. You can also create your own covering whatever topic you would like. Make it fun!

Read more about how to use Kahoot for Scouting [here](#).

Example of Kahoots for Scouting: [Know your Knots](#), [Whose poo?](#) , [Cub Fire Safety](#), [Emergency Aid Stage 2](#), [Scouts – Fire Safety 1](#), [Scouts – Fire Safety 2](#)

- [Quizizz](#)
- [Quizlet](#)
- [Gimkit](#)



Activities during Virtual Meetings (continued)

You know the TV show, same concept, but you become the host of online Jeopardy:

- [Jeopardy Labs](#)
- [PowerPoint](#)
- [Free Jeopardy Google Slides Template](#)
- [Free Jeopardy Template From Youth Downloads](#)
- [Jeopardy Game Maker From Speight Ed](#)
- [Instant Jeopardy Template Maker](#)
- [Advanced Jeopardy Template](#)
- [Free Jeopardy Template Review Game From Connor Bradley](#)
- [Jeopardy Maker](#)
- These were premade and found at ecbsa.org/scouting-at-home
 - [CubScout-Jeopardy](#)
 - [ScoutsBSA-Jeopardy](#)

Other ideas to consider:

Themes

Why not a Pirate Meeting? Dress the part, play the roles and ham it up!

Animation

- Homemade videos and animation
- Scout made videos can be pretty fun!
- YouTube clips of fun stuff
- Boy's Life and other How-To videos
- Music
- Memes

Live or Prerecorded Demos

Skill Demonstrations are just fun, especially when it is from someone you know.

- Fire Demo – scouts yell out “FIRE” each time you make a flame
- Pioneering skills – filmed live from your backyard
- CPR – with scouts pressing on a roll of toilet paper while listening to *Staying Alive*
- Wood carving – make sure scouts have their Totin' Chips
- Cooking – live televised cooking demos date back to the 1930s
- Dance moves – some scouters have been known to cut a rug
- Knot tying

Guest Speakers from anywhere in the world.

Remember, it's now virtual. Your guests no longer have to be at the same place as you, so reach out to a subject matter expert you know and plan your next meeting featuring a special guest.



Digital Escape Rooms

- [Digital Escape Rooms & Activities](#)
- [Free-digital-escape-rooms](#)

Virtual Campout

- Have an actual fire
- Skits
- Stunts
- Jokes
- Demos
- Ghost Stories
- Sharing of legends

Community Service

- Give a class on how to make masks
- Have the troop come up with a plan

Scavenger Hunt

- 10 Essentials
- First Aid items
- Scouting items
- Random stuff from outside

Online Lesson Aids – as featured by guest speaker in the Edelweiss Nov RT

- **Ring Simulator** - <https://scied.ucar.edu/interactive/tree-ring>
- **Sutori** - collaborative instruction and presentation tool for the classroom <https://www.sutori.com/>
- **LiveCams, such as CritterCam** – let's see if we can see five mammals in the field. <https://youtu.be/kLLdLn9Lpok>
- **Scratch** - a free programming language and online community where you can create your own interactive stories, games, and animations. <https://scratch.mit.edu/>
- **Tinkercad** - easy-to-use 3D CAD design tool. Quickly turn your idea into a CAD model for a 3D printer <https://www.tinkercad.com/>
- **Pixilart** - free online pixel drawing tool - This drawing tool allows you to make pixel art, game sprites and animated GIFs online for free. <https://www.pixilart.com/>
- **Snapseed** - photo-editing application for iOS and Android that enables users to enhance photos and apply digital filters. <https://snapseed.online/>
- **I can animate** – animation software <https://i-can-animate.en.softonic.com/>
- **Google Jamboards** - an interactive whiteboard system developed by Google as part of Google Workspace, formerly known as G Suite. <https://jamboard.google.com/>



There is an app for that ...

Scouting - Scouting makes it easier than ever for youth and their parents to view and track advancement in the Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting programs—as well as youth recognition in the Venturing program. The app pulls existing advancement data straight from Scoutbook for viewing on an enhanced user interface. [Find out more.](#)

myScouting - myScouting app puts training, rosters at your fingertips. [Find out more.](#)

Komoot – Ideal for exploring new hiking routes. The app shows you routes in your area, every single must-see, GPS, offline maps and more. <https://www.komoot.com>

iNaturalist - iNaturalist helps you identify the plants and animals around you. <https://www.inaturalist.org>

Zooniverse - Zooniverse gives people of all ages and backgrounds the chance to participate in real research with over 50 active online citizen science projects. <https://www.zooniverse.org/>

Online Lessons Learned and Advice

- Do the activities together and schedule in talk time
- See and interact with each other
- Your personality needs to be 2X larger
- Instructor and Moderator are needed for every classroom
- Include time-zone in class listing
- Send Material List EARLY to students – shopping list is even better!
- Keep lessons short. The attention span, especially for younger Scouts, is short.
- Setup Your classroom
- Have your supplies READY and within reach!
- If you are mailing supplies, remember to calculate postage into your budget.
- Incorporate ways for youth to get up and move with song and dance, plays, scavenger hunts or interactive app projects.
- Allow youth to be creative in what they have been assigned and if possible, allow them a way to safely publish it.
- Become your own YouTube or Facebook star if needed.
- Remember the great things about virtual, you are no longer bound by distance, access, space or time
- Make everything extra clear – you are not there to fix mistakes
- Be prepared to share parts of your life, and acknowledge it has benefits
- This is still your classroom – own it.



Scouting Outdoors

Scouts can still go outdoors. They can hike, explore wildlife, and do fun activities like geocaching.

Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity, in which participants use a Global Positioning System receiver or mobile device and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called "geocaches" or "caches", at specific locations marked by coordinates all over the world.

[Guide: Geocaching Adventure Kit! - Steps for a Successful Cub Scout Geocaching Event](#)

The Adventure Plan (TAP) to be used for all levels of Scouting for all outdoor adventures

<https://tap.scouting.org>

Scouting at Home

Activities for All Scouts



[Cyber Chip](#): As Scouts do more and more activities online, the Cyber Chip moves to the top of the "must do" list. The Cyber Chip activities include developmentally appropriate online safety lessons and activities.



[Emergency Preparedness Award](#): Activities are broken out for each Cub rank and each Scouting program, including Venturers, Sea Scouts, and adults! (That means adults can earn this, too!)



[BSA Crime Prevention Award](#): Although the site explaining this award has not been updated for awhile, the award is still available to Scouts of all levels!

30-Day Challenges

- [30 Day Challenge K-2nd Grade](#)
- [30 Day Challenge – 3rd – 4th Grade](#)
- [30 Day Scouts BSA Challenge](#)
- [30-Day Venturing Challenge](#)



Cub Scouting Activity Videos

- [“Lava Lamp”](#) – way to teach about different liquid densities with household materials
- [Cup Gliders](#)
- [“Never Ending” Fountain](#)
- [Foam Plate Gliders](#)
- [Harmonica](#) – “Air of the Wolf” Achievement
- [Balloon Rocket](#) – “Air of the Wolf” Achievement
- [Armpit Fudge](#)
- [Cub Scout Knots](#) (many different ones, 40 minute video!)
- [Quick video to teach Cub Scouts the Scout Oath](#)
- [“Akela’s Corner”](#) – ~10 minute video that covers a few different aspects

Cub Scout Activities you can do from home

- [Balloon Rocket Race](#)
- [Float Your Boat](#)
- [Marshmallow Catapults](#)
- [Marshmallow Engineering](#)
- [Milk Carton Bird Feeder](#)
- [Spider Headbands](#)
- [Tic Tac Toe](#)

Scouts BSA Resources

Requirements for all merit badges can be accessed on [Scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org)!

12 Merit Badges you can start from home (Online Videos)

- [Scholarship](#)
- [Digital Technology](#)
- [Chess](#)
- [Family Life](#)
- [Fingerprinting](#)
- [Art](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Movie Making](#)
- [Animation](#)
- [Indian Lore](#)
- [Nature](#)
- [Woodcarving](#)

Resources for Parents

- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
 - [Protecting Your Kids Online](#)
 - [Are Your Kids Home and Online](#)
- [Resources for Parents at Home During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)
- [Common Sense Media 2019 Tweens and Teens Media Use Research](#)
- [Coping with COVID-19](#) short videos from independent experts on parental challenges during these times



Resources for Adult Learning

Learning never stops. [My.Scouting](#) is always open! Adult Scouting volunteers and leaders can always find training modules online, including Youth Protection Training, position-specific modules, hazardous weather refreshers, safety afloat, and more.

Are you fully trained in your position? No? Take this time to be fully trained.

You are fully trained? Then take this time to be cross trained.

Additional Resources

Ideas are being shared daily on social media.

1st Virtual Scout Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1stvirtualscoutgroup/>

This 18k member-strong group provides a wealth of resources. Scroll through the discussion and check out the Files section.

- [Scouting At Home](#) is a collection of national resources for all BSA programs
- [ScoutingWire's Marketing and Membership Hub](#) offers a number of great webinars on **Virtual Recruitment and Outreach**
- [Scouting Wire TV](#) a collection of the best moments with **#ScoutingAtHome**
- [YouTube Video](#) on **Scouting at Home**
- [2020 JTE Scorecard](#) with Accommodations for Virtual and At-Home activities
- [Planning Calendar](#)
- [BSA National Website](#)
- [ScoutBook](#) – Advancement tracking for Scouts, Parents and Leaders
- [ScoutBook Hacks YouTube Channel](#) - Playlist of BSA videos that will help you with ScoutBook.
- [Scouting Magazine](#)
- [Official Blog](#)
- [Sea Scouts](#)
- [Scout Shop](#) - Current printed editions of handbooks and guidebooks
- [ScoutActivity.com](#) - Scouting tool for collecting, promoting and voting on unit activity ideas.

Don't forget to attend your monthly Roundtable to keep up-to-date and learn something new.