



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

GARDEN STATE COUNCIL

Created April, 2020

Video calls using Zoom can be a great way for Scouting units to stay connected when not able to meet physically. Den, Troop, or Crew Meetings; Committee Meetings; Patrol Leaders Councils and Venturing Leaders Councils; and Merit Badge Classes and just some of the ways we can all Scout On while at Home.

Garden State Council uses the following “best practices” when hosting Scouting events through Zoom. Many of these can be adapted when your unit is Scouting through Zoom or another leading video conference solution.

Garden State Council’s Best Practices for Scouting with Zoom:

- Pre-registration is required, even if it is a free event; Zoom access is then sent to the registrant’s email address and not posted in a public/accessible channel.
- Youth Protection Policies are in place and followed to the letter. We ensure that 2 registered, trained adults participate in all Council-run events (like merit badge sessions), and that at least one of those adults is female. Unit meetings must follow the same 2-Deep Leadership guideline.
- The adult host should be in control of the session at all time.
- All 1:1 chat is disabled before the session begins. If the number of participants is low/manageable, chat may be kept set to “Everyone.” Otherwise, chat should be disabled by the adult host.
- The ability for participants to annotate (ie draw on) the shared screen should be disabled before the session begins.
- The ability to takeover the shared screen should be disabled by the host before the session begins. The exception would be for a small/manageable group.
- As participants join a meeting, they are kept in a virtual waiting room until the host approves them.
- Participants should use real screen names so the host can identify them and use their names when calling on them to answer questions.
- All participants are muted by default when they enter a session. They can use the Zoom feature to “raise hands” to ask or answer a question. The host has the ability to mute and unmute individual participants.
- All communications between Scouts and the hosts/merit badge counselors/scout leaders outside of Zoom sessions will continue to follow Youth Protection Guidelines and involve additional adults (parents, leaders, etc.).

Questions/Concerns: program@gardenstatescouting.org