



## Scouting Continues Despite Social Distancing!

We know many of you may wonder how Scouts can keep working towards advancement while not meeting face to face with unit leaders or other Scouts. We believe that maintaining consistency in your Scout's daily life is important, especially right now, and we want you to know that there are several methods and policies for remote advancement and meetings for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, and Venturers. The following information is based on the latest available guidance. As this is an evolving situation, this information is subject to change.

### **Meetings & Advancement via Videoconference**

We encourage you to hold meetings by videoconference -- den meetings, troop meetings, Scoutmaster conferences, merit badge work, Eagle project approvals, and boards of review. Den Leaders and Scoutmasters should consider maintaining their regular schedule of meetings using a free videoconferencing tool (suggestions are below)

The National Council has offered guidelines on how to do boards or review, and the link is included below. The article emphasizes the importance of 2-deep adult participation, the need to have the Scout's parent or guardian involved at the start and end of the call, the fact that nobody should participate in a call who is not visible or announced, and the ban on recording any conversation with youth. Please read it carefully to make sure you're aligned with the guidance provided.

[How to conduct a board of review through videoconferencing](#)

### **Free videoconferencing options**

Note: Each of the options below has a paid option, but the features listed are free.

- Google Hangouts: Easy to use, no time limit, allows up to 10 participants
- Zoom: Great features, 40-minute time limit, allows up to 100 participants
- Skype: Good stability, four-hour time limit, allows up to 50 participants
- UberConference: Excellent video quality, 45-minute time limit, allows up to 10 participants

### **Recording Advancement Online**

While our service centers are closed, our primary method for recording advancement is still available, Scoutbook. For units who have not yet adopted Scoutbook, advancement and court of honor reports may be submitted in pdf form to [advancement@crossroadsbsa.org](mailto:advancement@crossroadsbsa.org).

The Unit Key Three and Unit Advancement Charis have access to record advancement with exception to Eagle Scout through Scoutbook.com. After hosting a videoconference meeting with your Scouts, ask the advancement chair for your unit to record completed advancements. With advancement recorded, online units can still purchase rank badges and other supplies from the Scout Shops for pickup by calling (317) 813-7125.

Den leaders may also want to explore the new Scoutbook Den Leader Experience app.

### **For Cub Scouts:**

Cubmasters and Den Leaders – work with the members of your den and pack. Use email, phone calls, and videoconferencing as appropriate to help provide Cub Scout activities from home. [Click Here](#) for a great resource of ideas. Your Cub Scouts are going to want to see their friends. Having an online den meeting is a great way for your Scouts to maintain their friendships and interact with each other while at home. Do your best to maintain a consistent day and time for weekly online or over the phone den meetings.

Bottom line:

- Be creative and positive about explaining to Cub Scout parents how they can work with their son/daughter to complete any remaining adventures for their current rank.
- Take time to report all advancements achieved this spring, even if you aren't able to have a face-to-face pack meeting and acknowledge them all yet.

### **For Scouts BSA:**

Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters, this is a good time for Scouts to work on rank requirements or merit badges. Work with your youth leaders (following Youth Protection guidelines) for them to provided remote instruction to fellow Scouts or to complete requirements with their family. That said, requirements may NOT be changed or waived, so some requirements may not be completed. Do your best to maintain a consistent day and time for weekly online or over the phone troop/patrol meetings.

Merit badge instruction can continue by registered and trained. Encourage your patrols to pick a merit badge that they can complete “together” at home and put them in contact with an appropriate counselor for remote instruction.

Older Scouts working on Eagle or Summit projects must follow social distancing guidelines and mandates in their communities. This may result in some delays to finish their rank requirements. Scouts who need more time to complete Eagle rank requirements should review the steps for requesting an extension. There will be no blanket extensions, and each situation will be evaluated on its own merits.

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