

Virtual Troop Meetings: Tips From Co-Leaders

Check to see if your co-leaders and families are on board. If some are not, ask them if they need help, or if they'd like their girl to work on her own. Provide digital resources. Let them know she is always welcome!

Ensure you are utilizing all safety measures that your platform provides, and there are at least two adults present during virtual meetings.

Hold a virtual Parent/Caregiver meeting before meeting with the girls. Work out any technology roadblocks, and share plans for upcoming virtual activities.

Review universal video conferencing etiquette such as; Muting when not speaking, utilizing a headset, find a spot with a static background, etc.

Create a virtual troop meeting agreement with each other. What will help girls stay focused? Staying by their screens, participating, listening to each other, etc.

If you have a girl in your home, if possible, have her participate on another device.

If they'll need supplies, give them time to gather them before the meeting.

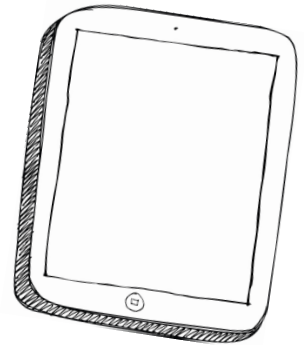
Plan in advance with a wide variety of activities, but be flexible during the meeting.

Glitches may happen - depend on audio more than visual.

Remember, just like when in-person, it's ok if things don't work out as planned, we're all learning!

Engage each girl equally and by name, let them know you're happy they are there, and that you can see them.

Embrace the awkward silence that may happen as girls turn on microphones to reply or take to time think, react, and reply.



Virtual Troop Meetings: Tips From Co-Leaders, cont.

Give girls a moment to be silly & playful, but then move on with the meeting.

Continue or create traditions. Start with the Promise and Law, develop a virtual quiet sign, and end with a closing song, each Girl Scout saying one word that describes the meeting, or what she is looking forward to next time. Invite the girls to create a virtual friendship squeeze. It may seem awkward at first, but that will pass.

If using a video, consider asking girls to view prior to the meeting in case there are technical difficulties. Let them know that during the meeting, you'll be discussing or referencing the video content.

For younger Girl Scouts:

Ask if an adult or older sibling can be by their side.

Keep the meeting short.

Break up sitting time with specific active activities such as: Jump up and down 15 times, stand up and flap like a bird, till you see the quiet sign, stretch your arms high, sing "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" or a favorite action song.

Ask if any family member would like to prepare an activity for the next meeting.

For older Girl Scouts:

Ask them to lead sections of badges or journeys, just like you'd do at an in-person meeting.

Check-in with them ahead of time to ensure they are prepared, and have shared any supply lists.

Utilize break out group functions available on Zoom, or other platforms. Check-in on each group to see how things are going.

Sample Meeting Outline:

Welcome each Girl Scout, review use of platform, social/silly time

Opening: Promise & Law, Sharing, what to expect during meeting

Activity 1

Stretch!

Activity 2

Closing: When we meet again we'll ____, Friendship Squeeze

