

## Scouting Virtual Operations

### Pillars of Focus and Success

1. Offer excellent programming (content) related to Scouting.  
*Character, Citizenship, Leadership, Fitness*
2. Replace face-to-face activities (especially the best ones) with virtual as much as possible.  
*Be creative, resourceful. Use existing and new gear (delivery, dead drops, mail)*
3. Engage youth leaders in program planning and delivery.  
*We have lots of Scouts; ask/assign to find who can help*
4. Find ways to involve Scouts, before, during and after program delivery.  
*pre-work, during-work, post-work*
5. Focus on creating personal connections.  
*Tell stories, use photos, "planned interaction"*
6. Deliver with efficiency and skill.  
*Choreograph meetings and activities*
7. Strive for a sense of normalcy.  
*Content, personal interaction, traditions/sequencing*

1. Deliver current Scouting to troop members.
  2. Strive to create a sense of normalcy in content and personal interaction.
  3. Be respectful of traditional time-based sequencing:
    - a. Rank progression
    - b. Leadership opportunities and progression; increasing responsibility
    - c. High adventure opportunities
    - d. Seasonal activities (outdoor, indoor, service)
    - e. New Scout onboarding
    - f. Recruiting
    - g. Recognition and ceremonies
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## Reflections – **Best Practices for VIRTUAL DELIVERY** (Zoom or others)

### ★ Talking points for PLC meeting:

- ☐ As the Host or as I like to say, Radio DJ, - what have you enjoyed during the Friday Troop meetings? The prep before or leading the conversation?
  - ☐ How are the transitions working from Opening Ceremony to Game to Presentations? How can they be improved?
  - ☐ Do you notice any rough spots or empty air space during the meeting?
  - ☐ What do you think you could do to prepare better ahead of time before the meeting?
  - ☐ Do you feel that you have Scouts engaged with the agenda for that night's meeting? Where do you think you're losing them?
- **Speaker** – Be upbeat and speak loudly (you're the entertainer for 50+ people!). You are like a Radio DJ!
  - **Camera, Lights, Action!** Make sure the lighting is in front of your laptop to **highlight your face** – not behind you, which creates shadows. Remove distractions from behind you.
  - **Who's your Wingman?** – An assistant to handle Q&A, chat, whiteboard

- **Ears, Eyes and Fingers** – How will you keep the Scouts engaged by listening to you? Engaged with what's on the screen? And ask them questions – to keep their fingers typing in Chat or a Questions box
- **Switch to Active Speaker & turn off Mute** – For Scout Oath, Law and Pledge of Allegiance
- **Plan Ahead -**
  1. Set an order for the slide deck ahead of time, so the Wingman doesn't become confused.
  2. Have the Wingman access the Gimkit account to show on the screen.
  3. The Wingman should blast a message in the meeting with the Gimkit number, **and** do one later with instructions for the patrol game.
  4. Have an ASPL log onto Zoom 30 minutes before the Troop meeting - advertise opportunity for Scouts not familiar with logging into Gimkit or Kahoots to get 1-on-1 instruction
  5. Turn off Annotate and Chat for Scouts
- **Have Fun!**

## Scout Meeting Agenda Ideas

### Goals/Ideas for the Big Meeting

- **SHORTER BIG MEETINGS? How long?**
- American Flag – Have one that you can place behind you as the Active Speaker for Pledge of Allegiance. Show this person on the Main Screen so everyone can see him!
- Run a quick Zoom poll as Icebreaker (maybe don't show results)
- Baby Picture - 1 Senior Scout - everyone guesses in poll
- Craziest long hair grown during CoVid-19
- Rotate Patrols for planning/participation role in Friday troop meeting - they can lead Opening/Closing or Discussion Topic?
- Find one Scout who is a fast paced artist – Give them control of the Whiteboard to document the meeting via pictures and words
- Zoom polling -  
<http://www.scoutshare.org/Resources/Articles/remote-quizzes-with-zoom-polling>
- Running a Scout Zoom Meeting (how to) -  
<http://www.scoutshare.org/Resources/Articles/trooppack-meetings-with-zoom>

## What do we follow the Big Meeting with?

### Choices:

- First Year programming
- Rank advancement to 1st Class (not FYs)
- Merit Badge advancement
- Skills instruction
- College prep
- Career presentations
- Guest speakers
- Patrol challenges
- Plan something big (Camporee?)
- Service Projects

## You're Not Hiking or Camping – Now What?

⇒ Offer activities for multiple interests - skills based, careers, planning next Camporee

### ❖ **Backpacking/Philmont prep series**

- 1 hour Zoom Calls starting at 10am
- Each led by a Senior Scout Who's been to Philmont or Plan B
- Prep List on T98 Website (i.e., what to collect before webinar)
- Sample Topics
  - ✓ What to Pack for a 3-day hike – lay out for pic like on Instagram
  - ✓ Hiking boots – Boot Type, Socks, Treating Blisters, How to tie your boots for different hot spots
  - ✓ Water filtration methods

⇒ **Life to Eagle Seminars** - Offer to 4 Scouts at a time, conduct monthly

⇒ **Iron Chef Cooking Competition** by Patrol or **Nailed It (show on Netflix)**

⇒ **First Aid Rally Competitions** - Virtual demonstrations or videos. Compete by Patrol. Set up District-wide event inviting other Troops

⇒ **Get 12 Troop Instructors** to sign up. Put together Virtual Scouting Kits to deliver to First Year Scouts. Would contain materials for various advancement requirements - i.e., rope and sticks for lashing, matches and string for fusing, compass, etc.

⇒ **MacGyver Competition**

### ❖ **Merit Badges - No Outside Requirements**

<http://www.scoutshare.org/Resources/Articles/work-on-merit-badges-while-home>

## PROJECTS / SERVICE

### ❖ Eagle Scout Project Involvement

<http://scoutshare.org/Resources/Articles/uu-eco-challenge-2020>

UU Eco-Challenge 2020 -- Eagle Scout Project - By Harley Pinto, Troop 167

Join Eagle Scout Candidate Harley Pinto in the battle against Climate Change by taking on the Drawdown EcoChallenge! The challenge runs from April 19th until May 31st, and is built to inspire people towards Climate Action by Educating us on issues surrounding climate change, spreading Awareness of what we can do to help, and Empowering us to do it! Join in on the action at [www.UUEcoChallenge2020.org](http://www.UUEcoChallenge2020.org)! You can reach out to Harley at [uuecochallenge2020@outlook.com](mailto:uuecochallenge2020@outlook.com) with comments or questions. It's going to take all of us together to change the world!

- ❖ Adventure Trek Participation YouTube Video from the Michigan Crossroads Council Troop meeting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFOVywp3SXA&feature=youtu.be>

## ASMs Meeting 26 April

1. How's everyone doing?
2. Feedback from contacts with Scouts (focus on issues/needs).
3. Plans for May:
  - Three virtual meetings (shorter) with FY, ranks and merit badge breakouts (3 breakouts)
  - Youth leader elections - one week for SPL, following week for PLs; need to figure out how to do reliable online voting
  - Spring Court of Honor?
4. Longer term plans:
  - All virtual for the foreseeable future
  - Ideas on what to do from PLC
5. ASM Help:
  - Patrol mentors
  - Breakout coordination/mentoring (whether it's patrol meetings or "topics")
  - Mentoring/supervision of youth leadership positions
    - Historian
    - Social Media Scribe
    - Instructors (traditional)
    - Instructors (digital/virtual) [ ??? ]
    - Troop Guides (and help with First Years)
    - Technologists (CTOs)
- Den Chiefs (Packs need a lot of help right now; let's ramp this up) [Bill, Shawn]
  - OEG [Tai, Pete]
  - Public Health MB [Shawn]
  - American Heritage MB [ask parents/history teacher?]
  - Service projects
  - Advancement
    - "Dean of Students/Provost" - set up process for all-virtual learning, submittal and review of work, awards
    - Transition to ScoutBook [SteveE, Gene, SteveP]
  - Eagle process
    - Life to Eagle seminars
    - Periodic project/status review meetings (monthly?)
6. New initiatives:
  - Set up recurring schedule of virtual merit badges
  - Figure out how to do outdoor stuff
    - Camp out at home
    - Camp out with social distancing (at St. John's?)
    - Orienteering: Evansburg perm course - build another?
    - Hiking
  - Summer Camp
  - Careers Program [use alumni, start w/Seniors, strength finders down to juniors; SPerry example; ChipO]
  - Ghost story night
  - Campfire night - assignments for patrols (MC: Commun.; Pete)
  - Using our examples to help BSA remain successful and relevant through this