



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA COUNCIL

Safer at Home, Scouting at Home

Thank you for your interest in keeping the Scouting Program active during this time where face-to-face interaction is still limited. These resources are meant to be used so that we may safeguard the health of our youth and adult leadership.



With the concerns of COVID-19 still affecting our lives, Scouting hasn't stopped.

As Scouters, we are never ones to shrink from a challenge. As long as you can provide two-deep digital leadership the program can continue!

It's important to think about how we can mitigate how our youth members are disrupted. More than thinking about it, we need to act! There are ways that we can deliver positive adult associations, even with the "Stay At Home" order.

Editors' Notes:

- *While there's no replacement for the social benefits of a live scout meeting, we owe it to our youth and parents to continue to engage them in every way we can through the social distancing period.*
- *This is a living document. Please feel free to comment and contribute. **Your Voice matters!***

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Greater Los Angeles Area Council Resources

Scouting's official web resources are regularly publishing new ideas on how to provide programs that are socially-distanced.

General Info

1. [Boy Scouts of America | Prepared. For Life.™](#)
The official website of the Boy Scouts of America, serving youth in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Exploring, and Sea Scouts.
2. [Greater Los Angeles Area Council](#)
The official website of the Greater Los Angeles Area Council.
3. [Bryan on Scouting](#)
Scouting Magazine Blog.
4. [Commissioner Service Program Support Resources](#)
Program Support resources from the National Commissioner Service
5. [Scouting at Home](#)
BSA's official website of Scouting at Home resources.



Scouting at Home Video

6. [Official BSA Scouting at Home Video](#)

Finding a Unit or Marketing your Unit

7. [BeaScout.org](#)
Find a Unit to join, or make sure your unit can be found by others.

Health and Safety

8. [Guide to Safe Scouting](#)
The who, what, where, and how of keeping Scouts safe in age-appropriate activities.
9. [Official BSA COVID-19 Page](#)
The Boy Scouts of America's office response to our current crisis.

Shopping

10. [The Scout Shop Official BSA Store | Uniforms, Badges, & Gear](#)
Stock up now! Don't forget that proceeds from these sales help support the Scouting Program.

Program at Home

Time at-home provides unique opportunities to pursue certain types of advancement, like parent-cub activities and merit badges that are well-suited to work at home. See the section on Merit Badges for information on this. Advancement isn't the only part of Scouting.

Online Patrol and Den Meetings

Official BSA Resources

- [Den Leader Resources](#)
- [Patrol Meeting Agenda](#)
- [Troop Meeting Agenda](#)
- [PLC Meeting Agenda](#)

Unofficial Resources

- How to run a [virtual Pinewood Derby](#)
- [Scout Saturday Live](#)
West LA Council's Online Outreach Program
- [Cubmaster Chris videos](#)
Great ideas from the YouTube channel of Cubmaster Chris Gates from upstate New York
- [Tips for Distance Learning](#)
This YouTube channel from Common Sense Media has strategies for engaging learners in an online environment

Hosting Meetings

- See our [Video Conferencing Section](#) for tools and tips on hosting meetings.
- [Suggested Scouting Games for Video Conferences](#)
Great ideas for your next Den or Patrol meeting!
- Tips and Tricks for Running a Zoom Meeting
Created by Jennifer Armstrong of Pack 75 in Long Beach, this [presentation/YouTube video](#) is aimed at Cub Leaders, but has tricks applicable to all program levels



“Outdoor” Activities

- [TrekAt2](#)
Every weekday at 2 p.m. Central (noon Pacific), *Boys’ Life* editors share treks that take Scouts on journeys all over the world
- [Virtual Summer Camps](#)
Options for Cubs, Scouts, and Venturers from Councils across the USA
- [Mystery Hike](#)
Patterned on the game of Clue, try this mystery adventure from T482 in Fairfield, CA, and then create your own!
- [Square Foot “Hike”](#)
Inspired by the “My Tiger Jungle” adventure, this activity challenges Scouts to catalog every living thing in a square foot and is easily adapted for different ages. Pack 665 in San Pedro created a “kit” in a white paper bag with string, a pencil, and a magnifying glass and asked Tigers to use the bag to list and/or draw their observations. This could make a great recruiting activity!

Teaching tools

- [Kahoot!](#)
Develop learning games and quizzes.
- [Mentimeter](#)
Free version lets you create an interactive presentation with 2 questions and 5 quizzes
- [Quizlet](#)
Find study materials (knots, first aid, and the Scout Law are already in the database!) build flash cards, and play games

Online Learning

Quality and Content Resources

- [Resources for Families from Common Sense Media](#) (includes resources in Spanish)
- [Resources for Educators \(like Scout leaders!\) from Common Sense Media](#)
- [Wideopen School](#)
A free collection of online learning experiences curated by Common Sense Media
- [Tips for Setting up Online Instruction from Stanford](#)
- [Resources for Protecting Privacy Online from Commons Sense Media](#)
- [PBS Learning Media](#)
Videos and learning plans for grades K-12 as well as great tips for teachers (like Scout leaders!)

Games & Fun Stuff

- [Gimkit | Live Quiz Learning Game](#)
Online gaming can help engage youth in social interactions in constructive, structured activities.
- [Quizizz.com](#)
Quiz site for groups
- Boy's Life: [Stuck Inside? 25 Fun Projects to Do with Stuff From Around the House](#)
Bored? Stuck at home? Even if you can't go outside, you can still have fun.
- [Fun Stuff to Do](#)
More activities from Boy's Life Magazine
- [Fun projects for kids that you can do from home](#)
A list of activities by Cub Scout Rank curated by Scouting Magazine.
- [Mobile Games](#)
Online games for your mobile device, curated by Boy's Life Magazine.
- [JPL Activities by grade level](#)
Here, you can find instructions for making things like rockets, Mars rovers and Moon landers out of materials you have at home.
- [ZoomJam.org](#)
A project from USC where people propose fun, socially-interactive games to play on Zoom or similar video services.

Lecture Series

- [TED: Ideas worth Spreading](#)
Some of the best lectures ever, online!
Pat Moss' Favourite: [Susan Cain: The Power of Introverts](#)
Steve Salyards' Favourite: [Carrie Nugent: Adventures of an Asteroid Hunter](#)
- [TED-Ed: Lessons Worth Sharing](#)
All sorts of engaging educational videos
- [Crash Course](#)
Crash Course is a great way to educate yourself, your classmates, and your family on YouTube!
- [Crash Course Kids](#)
Crash Course on YouTube.
- [The Kid Should See This - Smart videos for curious minds of all ages](#)
Smart videos for curious minds of all ages.
- [Gifted and Talented Online Programs](#)
Enrich your gifted child with these online programs!
- [Mark Rober](#)
Great Science experiments by an ex-JPL Engineer
- [Smarter Every Day](#)
Science and Engineering Videos
- [Vsauce - Michael Stevens](#)
Psychology and Mind Experiments
- [Language of Friendship](#) from UR Strong
Are the kids getting on each other's nerves? Work on healthy relationships with these videos

- [The United States Constitution](#)
Online lessons and lesson plans from the National Constitution Center
- [Space Launch video field trips](#)
Immersive experiences developed by NASA as part of their Commercial Crew (astronaut) outreach

Art

- [Easy Crafts for Kids](#)
Easy arts and crafts for little ones
- [The Imagination Tree - Creative play and learning for kids](#)
Creative art and craft activities for the very youngest
- [The Artful Parent - Home](#)
Good, free art activities linked to from this Facebook page
- [Beepbox music](#)
Create music on your home computer

Computer Science

- [Code.org: Learn computer science. Change the world.](#)
A site dedicated to expanding access to computer science in schools and increasing participation by women and underrepresented youth.
- [Blockly Games](#)
Learn computer programming skills – fun and free.
- [Explore Scratch](#)
Creative computer programming

Language Arts

- [Duolingo - The world's best way to learn a language](#)
Learn languages for free
- [Summer reading bingo](#)
Designed by Scholastic for grades K-6, but easily adaptable for older youth.
- [My Storybook](#)
Designed for grades K-3, this easy interface helps anyone write & illustrate a story

Math

- [Khan Academy](#)
Especially good for maths and computing for all ages..
- [Prodigy: Math Learning Platform](#)
Good for elementary school ages
- [Home number hunt](#)
Designed for Grades K-3, take a survey. Might dovetail nicely with Cub Scout NOVA award [1-2-3 Go!](#)

- [Tesselations](#)
Easily adaptable for all ages, can be connected with math or art (such as Escher designs)
- [Summer Math Challenges](#)
A variety of “game boards” with fun math activities for K-6 and up from Greg Teng
- [Create a math walk](#)
Check out these puzzles that you can share with your neighborhood!

Social Studies

- [Big History Project](#)
Aimed at Secondary age, multi-disciplinary activities
- [World Games](#)
Geography gaming!
- [National Geographic Kids](#)
Activities and quizzes for younger kids
- [PBS Documentaries](#)
From Africa to the Wild West, PBS is granting everyone access to 179 of their best history programs

Tinkering and Toys

- [Toy Theater | Fun Online Educational Games for Kids](#)
Educational online games
- [Tinkercad | Create 3D digital designs with online CAD | Tinkercad](#)
All kinds of making
- [Canadian Scout creates an ear guard to help health professionals](#)
An inspiring story of how Scouts with ideas can make a BIG difference!
- [Cardboard Creations](#)
Make a box maze, claw machine, lamp or other objects with Caine from Two Bit Circus
- [Rube Goldberg machines](#)
Check out the resources on this page--you may even want to try the “water a plant” summer challenge!
- [Build a paper table](#)
An engineering challenge from PBS Kids
- [Instant challenge matrix](#)
Take common household items and see what you can build

Science

- [Mystery Science: Lessons for elementary teachers](#)
Free science lessons
- [CREST Awards](#)
Science awards you can complete from home.
- [STEM Simulators](#)
PhET provides fun, free, interactive, research-based science and mathematics simulations.
- [ArchKIDecture](#)
STEM concepts for kid through the medium of architecture.

- [Catalina Island Conservancy Learning at Home](#)
The learning resources designed to encourage staying in touch with nature
- [Wizards of Wright](#)
The Educational Outreach page of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
- [Emerald Bay Outdoor Academy](#)
Premiere outdoor education for grades 5th through 12th. Specialize in marine science, leadership, and ethics. A program of the not-for-profit Boy Scouts of America, Western Los Angeles County Council.
- [Journey North](#)
Learn about animal migrations, from birds and butterflies to the gray whales off of our coast
- Virtual Voyage
Math and science resources from Chartering Organization Los Angeles Maritime Institute. Includes [lesson plans](#) with resource links for grades 3-12 and marine science videos (at the bottom of [this webpage](#))
- [Carnegie Institute of Science](#) Zoom Lectures
Probably most appropriate for grades 9 or higher, lecturers include an evolutionary geneticist and microbial ecologist
- [Science documentaries from PBS](#)
From animals to weather, PBS is granting everyone access to 161 of their best science programs
- [COVID 19 Science](#)
A virtual learning toolbox from the Exploratorium in San Francisco
- [#LaunchAmerica STEM kit](#)
Activities from NASA for Grades K-12 in support of the first manned space launch in almost a decade
- [At home science activities from Two Bit Circus](#)
Experiment with slime, electrolysis, desalination, paper circuits and more
- [STEM 30 day challenge](#)
A great menu of activities for each day of the month!

Nature

- Conduct a Wildlife Survey on your next walk!
[Here's a checklist](#) for younger children from the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
PVPLC also has a [habitat survey checklist](#)
[Here's a more advanced citizen science approach](#) from the Natural History Museum
- [Guided Tour of Chandler Preserve](#)
Learn about the endangered Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly and its habitat
- [Home projects](#) to enhance your backyard habitat

Wellness

- [South Bay Families Connected](#)
Online meetings, videos, and articles on a wide variety of wellness topics for youth and adults
- [Pack Call Back](#)
Try this tip from Pack 75 in Long Beach: If someone you know needs a little lift, arrange for the unit to call, text or video chat.

- [Friendship Activities](#)
Activities to help kids tap into a sense of belonging, community, and connection from URSTRONG
- Face mask patterns
Although wearing a mask is in **no way** a substitute for physical distance, Mayor Garcetti recommended on 4/1 that citizens wear face masks when leaving home for essential activities. You can make your own at home.
[Recommendations](#) from the CDC
Using [reusable grocery bags](#) from Popular Science
Using [common household materials](#) from Leah Day
Using a [Scout neckerchief](#) from Boys' Life

Scouting Specific Activities and Challenges

Make the time matter--work on Rank Advancement at home!

- [At Home Scouting Activities](#)
More ideas from "Scout Spirit"
- Cub Scout 30-Day Challenge Monthly activity schedules lightly mapped to advancement to encourage program at home.
 - [Lion](#)
 - [Tiger](#)
 - [Wolf](#)
 - [Bear](#)
 - [Webelos](#)
 - GLAAC Mirror: <https://bit.ly/scouting-30days>
- [Scoutshare.org](#)
A resource for sharing remote Scouting ideas and other Scouting ideas in general.
- [Digital Den Meetings](#) on Facebook
Cascade Pacifica Council (pre-registration required)
- [Scouter Rob Youtube Channel](#)
Covers each Scouts BSA rank requirement
- [Mac Guzman Youtube Channel](#)
Eagle Scout that gives tips on earning the Eagle Rank
- [Every Cub Scout Adventure \(95+\) - Advancement Resources to Help at Home and in Den Activities](#)
Includes tons of tips for the 95 adventures, from a number of councils, to support Cubbing at home
- [Activities To Continue #ScoutingAtHome](#)
From the Capitol Area Council: Scroll down to "At Home Adventures" for a six-week plan of rank-appropriate adventures that can be pursued at home
- [Dan Beard Council Adventure Boxes](#)
"These Cub Scout rank-based activity boxes will contain Scouting activities and all of the supplies to complete three elective adventures." Let us know if they ship to Cub families outside of their council!

Virtual Museums and other Enrichment

- [Google Arts & Culture: Virtual Museums](#)
Art Collections curated by Google
- [Online Tours: The Louvre](#)
Visit the museum's exhibition rooms and galleries, contemplate the façades of the Louvre...
- [The Museum of the World](#)
The British Museum presents: The Museum of the World.
- [Guggenheim Online Collection](#)
A searchable database of selected artworks from the Guggenheim's permanent collection.
- [Museum of Natural History](#)
The Smithsonian, National Museum of Natural History virtual tours allow visitors to take self-guided, room-by-room tours of select exhibits and areas within the museum from their desktop or mobile device.
- [Salvador Dali Museum](#)
By means of this virtual visit, we invite you to take a tour around some of the museum's rooms and see some works and objects exhibited there by means of panoramic pictures
- [Air Force Museum](#)
The virtual tour allows visitors to take a virtual, 360-degree, self-guided tour of the entire museum by navigating from gallery to gallery.
- [Nightly Met Opera Streams](#)
The performances, originally captured as live broadcasts in movie theatres worldwide, will begin at 7:30 PM from the company's homepage.
- [Moma Learning](#)
Download and customize slideshows, worksheets, and other resources for use in the classroom or self-guided learning.
- [Live feed from Monterey Bay Aquarium](#)
With ten live cams to choose from, you can experience the wonder of the ocean from anywhere!
- [US Space and Rocket Center](#)
Science Never Stops, STEAM videos exploring museum artifacts, hands-on science, live astronomy demonstrations and so much more!
- [Digital Lincoln Pilgrimage](#)
Learn about President Lincoln with these resources from Abraham Lincoln Council in Illinois. You can even earn a cool patch!
- [STEM Careers Coalition](#)
Video Profiles of various careers in the gas & oil industry
- Virtual Fire Station Visits
 - [From Emily Dodson](#) in Knoxville, TN
 - [From the Kindhearted Classroom](#)
- [Online Events and Activities recommended by Common Sense Media](#)
Provide some structure and schedule to your family's day.
- [Find Your "Virtual" Park - NPS Celebrates! \(US National Park Service\)](#)
Virtual Tours of National Parks
- [FBI Laboratory Activity Notebook](#)
Great follow-on activities to the Bear "Forensics" adventure.

- [Explore and More](#)
Links to tours, animal cams, outdoor adventures and more curated by the Palos Verdes Library District.
- [LA Conservancy Tours](#)
Explore historic Los Angeles neighborhoods and architecture
- [Neighborhood walk activities](#)
Ideas from Curbed Los Angeles

Service Projects

GLAAC Partners

- [Helping Hands Community](#)
A technology based, grassroots program to deliver essential goods and services to those in need.

Other Programs

- [Western Region Area 4 COVID-19 Response Service Project](#)
An Area 4 project.
- [Kindness Card](#)
An example from [Beach Cities Health District](#)
- [Scouts Trash the Trash Day 2020](#)
This [International Messengers of Peace](#) project will take place May 2nd. Scouts around the world are asked to work with family members and pick up at least one Kilo (2.2 pounds) of trash.

Advancement

The rules of Scouting work very similarly online as they do live. If you have a question about how to make online activities work well, the literature below can provide official guidance. For example, under these circumstances, there's not really any reason why we shouldn't be doing boards of review by videoconference.

- [COVID-19 FAQ - Including Advancement Topics](#)
- [Guide to Advancement](#)
- <https://www.scoutbook.com/>
Unit Management, directly from the BSA.
- [Scoutbook - Den Leader](#)
Den Leader Experience in Scoutbook
- [The Eagle Scout Rank](#)
The Eagle Scout Rank Application Process



Merit Badges Online

1. Find a registered merit badge counselor: Scouts should work with their Scoutmaster to identify a merit badge counselor for the badge or badges they want to earn. (Merit badge counselors — either current or future — should read our guide to being a merit badge counselor for some helpful tips.)
2. Use the official requirements: You'll find a lot of outdated merit badge requirements online. For the most current and up-to-date requirements, go to the BSA's official merit badges page.
3. Understand what made the cut: All 137 merit badges have certain requirements Scouts could complete at home.
4. Have fun: Earning merit badges is one of my favorite parts about Scouting. Other than the merit badges required for Eagle, young people get to pick any merit badge that interests them. That decision should be 100% theirs. If earning a merit badge ever feels like schoolwork ... well, you're doing it wrong.

Merit Badge Listing: <https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/>

GLAAC's Online Merit Badge Program

- [Online Merit Badges](#)
We are excited to offer online Merit Badge Classes that will still provide a fun, interactive experience with each Scout!

Other Online Merit Badge Resources

- [Central Florida Council - Online Merit Badge Classes 2020](#)
Utilize time at-home to complete merit badge advancement.
- <https://www.meritbadge.info/>
Utilize time at-home to complete merit badge advancement.
- <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/03/20/merit-badges-for-social-distancing/>
- [Merit Badge kits](#) from ScoutShop.org
A great selection of handicraft supplies, plus Robotics and First Aid!

NOVA Awards

[NOVA awards](#) are opportunities for Cub Scouts (Wolf-Arrow of Light), Scouts, Venturers, and Sea Scouts to delve into Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) topics with the help of registered [NOVA counselors](#). Most awards include a [requirement](#) to watch educational videos. In addition, youth can count adventures, badges, and explorations that they've already earned, or use this opportunity to start new achievements.

- [Cub Adventures that apply to NOVA awards](#)
- [Scouts BSA Merit Badges that apply to NOVA awards](#)
- [Venturing and Sea Scouting Explorations that apply to NOVA awards](#)

Special Extensions

Online Boards of Review

- [Boards of Review by Videoconferencing](#)
You don't have to be face to face to run boards of review.

Earning Eagle Scout Rank

In the [National Guidance on COVID-19 - Advancement](#) there is a provision for a special extension for Scouts of Life rank whose 18th birthday is a short distance away and their advancement has been interrupted by the COVID-19 virus. If a Scout meets the criteria for the special extension:

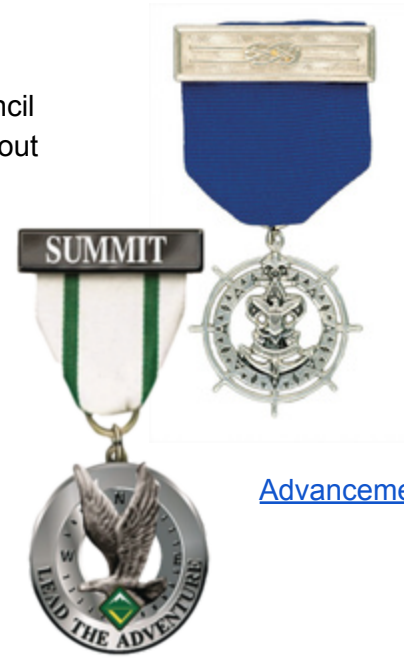
- Use the standard form for [Request for Extension of Time to Earn Eagle Scout Rank](#)
- Submit to the District Advancement Chair the form with Scout (or family) statement on the interruption in advancement and a Scoutmaster statement endorsing the extension and describing the Scout's progress towards Eagle rank. Include an Advancement Summary report if available.



- The District Advancement Chair will review and forward to the Council Advancement Committee for final review before approval by the Scout Executive.
- Follow [these guidelines](#) to plan a project within current public health orders

Earning Summit and Quartermaster Ranks

- Scouts wanting extensions for the Summit or Quartermaster ranks should refer to the criteria described in the [Guide to paragraph 9.0.4.0.](#)
- Follow [these guidelines](#) to plan a project within current public health orders



[Advancement.](#)

Cub Scouts and Webelos

- Cub Scouts and Webelos can work on their current rank requirements through July 31st, 2020. Through July 31, 2020, parents and other adults in the Cub Scout's family may sign off on Webelos and Arrow of Light requirements. See [National Guidance on COVID-19 - Advancement](#) for more information.



Other Advancement Accommodations

Cub Scout Advancement

As described in the [BSA Covid-19 FAQ](#), "Through July 31, 2020, parents and other adults in the Cub Scout's family may sign off on Webelos and Arrow of Light requirements." We encourage you to make use of Scoutbook for tracking advancement and completed requirements.

Scouts BSA Rank Advancement

The [BSA Covid-19 FAQ](#) includes some accommodations to the requirements for the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class. This includes the explicit allowance for virtual patrol or troop campouts to fulfill camping requirements. Check out the FAQ for the full list of modified requirements.

Merit Badge Requirements

The [BSA Covid-19 FAQ](#) refers to the Guide to Advancement in stating that merit badge requirements can not be modified, and there can not be additions or deletions. Under the current Safer at Home circumstances the FAQ does indicate that virtual field trips may be substituted if in the judgement of the counselor the virtual field trip meets the intent of the requirement.

There is no explicit discussion of camping nights for merit badges. The Council Advancement Committee reaffirms the FAQ's guidance that the counselor "must determine to the best of their ability if the Scout has demonstrated the intended outcome." If the requirement can not be met by virtual means the scout must wait for Safer at Home conditions to be lifted to complete the requirement. (If a requirement of a required merit badge can not be met under Safer at Home conditions by the 18th birthday that is a condition that would qualify them for the Special Extension for the Rank of Eagle.)

Order of the Arrow Requirements for Election

There has been a [temporary camping night policy](#) change during this time.

Training

Lots of BSA training is available through the online learning center. Now is an ideal time to complete your position-specific training if you haven't already.

For Adults: YPT, Position, and Program

- [Trained Leader Requirements](#)
Are you and your leaders wearing the "trained" patch?
- [My Scouting website](#)
Your source for adult training (and some youth as well)
- Trainer's EDGE Online
<https://www.facebook.com/events/2672801069609177/>
- [GLAAC My.Scouting Training](#)
Come learn about these online tools to help run your unit.
- [Pack Leader 30 Day Training Challenge](#)
Originated by our neighbors in Orange County Council, complete your Cubmaster, Committee, Den Leader or Chartered Org Rep training with this 30 day plan
- [Troop Leader 30 Day Training Challenge](#)
Originated by our neighbors in Orange County Council, complete your Cubmaster, Committee, Den Leader or Chartered Org Rep training with this 30 day plan



For Youth: Cyber Chip, Den Chief

- [Cyber Chip](#)
Maybe this is an ideal time to renew that cyber chip with all the screen time in front of our youth?
- [Den Chief Training](#)
Den Chief Training gives our youth valuable leadership skills

Committees

Districts

- [Roundtable Support](#) from the National Office
Why not use Round Table Templates and Meeting Guides?

Units

- 30 Day Challenges can keep your unit working and collaborating together.
- Online meetings can be fun and offered more frequently.
Not everyone has to attend all meetings, but all Scouts can attend at least some.



Commissioner Service

The Commissioner Service of the Greater Los Angeles Area Council shares the BSA's mission: To prepare youth to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. Our Vision is for every member of the BSA to have a great Scouting experience. This document has been created by the Commissioners and District Operations teams of the Greater Los Angeles Area Council to help units continue to give every member a great Scouting experience during this time where we can not meet face to face.

During this time, as with any time in Scouting, please reach out to your Unit Commissioner for any questions, concerns, guidance, or help. If you do not know who your Unit Commissioner is, please contact your District Commissioner to find out who it is.



Please visit our [Council's Commissioner Corner page](#).

You can also find more information about the Commissioner Service on the [National Commissioner Service](#) page. If you are interested in becoming a Commissioner, please reach out to one of the people listed below. We are always looking to add great Scouters to our ranks.

Council Commissioner [Travis Williams](#)

District Commissioners

El Camino Real [Joe Rivera](#)

Pacifica [Nancy Hodgkiss](#)

Rose Bowl [Cindy Sercel](#)

Metropolitan [Heath Row](#)

Pio Pico [Doug Briscoe](#)

San Gabriel Valley [Darin Sorrels](#)

Video Conferencing and Teleconferencing

Video Conference Best Practices

When conducting meetings over videoconference, here are some tips to follow for a successful meeting:

- Ask everyone to mute themselves while the meeting chair is talking. If needed, use the mute function if the system has moderator capabilities.
- Remember to follow YPT rules if meeting with youth on a videoconference
- Try not to start your meeting on the hour/half hour to avoid system overload.
- Be mindful of “Zoombombings”, the posting of lewd or offensive material from uninvited guests in online scouting activities. The University of Southern California has published a list of best practices that we can all use to avoid this YP hazard. [Zoombombing Resources | Keep Teaching | USC](#)



For more tips, try this link from Stanford University: [Meeting Etiquette Tips](#)

Video Conferencing Systems

- [BlueJeans: Video Conferencing, Screen Sharing, Video Calls](#)
Ideal for council and district gatherings; contact your District Executive for more information on how to take advantage of BlueJeans
- [Zoom: Video Conferencing, Web Conferencing, Webinars, Screen Sharing](#)
Recommended for unit gatherings (see below)
- [Google Hangouts](#)
Lets you set up video conferencing through Calendar, but can only be accessed by people who have Google accounts. It might be good for units with widespread Google use.
- [GoToMeeting](#)
- [Join.Me: Screen Sharing, Online Meetings & Web Conferencing](#)
Easy interface for most.
- [WhereBy: Video Meetings](#)
Free version lets you and three others meet.

Recommended Unit Resource: Zoom

We recommend [Zoom](#) for unit-level video conferencing because of its widespread usage by small businesses, schools, and other organizations. It doesn't require any software download (although if you want to, you can; participants can also just join in their browser) or user accounts for participants, and people can join by telephone, as well (though that seems to be temporarily removed from free Basic accounts because of high demand)—so there should be few technological barriers to participation.

People can sign up to use Zoom's Basic service for free; the service requests that you sign up using a work email, but you can also sign up using a personal account, which we recommend instead—unless you plan to use it for work.

As a Basic member, you are given your own dedicated Personal Meeting URL, which you can use to hold online gatherings. The free tier of service supports:

- Hosting up to 100 participants
- Unlimited one-to-one meetings
- A 40-minute limit on group meetings—which might make the paid Pro tier more interesting to some units
 - Group meetings also support breakout rooms, so you can hold larger and smaller group sessions within the same environment
- An unlimited number of meetings
- Online support

There's also a Pro level, which costs \$14.99/month. (That nets out at about \$180/year for a unit.) The Pro tier of service includes all of the features of the free Basic tier, as well as:

- Guaranteed dial-in by phone audio conferencing capabilities
- Longer meeting times—a duration limit of 24 hours (that's some troop meeting!)
- User management options
- Administrator features and controls
- Usage reports
- A custom Personal Meeting ID—rather than the randomized one you'll be assigned for the free tier
- The ability to designate another person to schedule meetings for you—that means you need just one Pro account for the unit, and someone else can help manage it
- 1GB of cloud recording
- Skype for Business interoperability

You can learn more about the Zoom tiers [here](#).

The council has identified Heath Row, District Commissioner for Metropolitan District, as a helpful point of contact for any unit-level questions about Zoom. You can email him at kalel@well.com and call him at 718-755-9840 if you have specific questions. (Please leave a voicemail if you'd like a call back.) For general support, we recommend the [Zoom Help Center](#).

Teleconferencing Services

If your unit's Scouts and their families don't all have easy Internet access, there are also teleconferencing and other services that support telephone—not just smartphone—access well. Someone on the unit committee might need online access to set up an account and the teleconferences, but Scouts and their families should be able to dial in by phone or smartphone once that's done.

FreeConference.com

The free tier offers unlimited conference calls. The dial-in number is in area code 712, so long distance rates might apply for some callers.

FreeConferenceCall.com

This pay-what-you-can service supports calls of up to 1,000 people with local dial-in numbers. Long-distance rates might apply. This is the service I use, and it costs something like a penny a minute on your phone bill for each caller.

[FreeConferenceCalling](https://FreeConferenceCalling.com)

Also offers free conference calls to a toll number, so long distance rates might apply.

Join.Me

The Pro level, which costs \$240/year, includes toll-free phone numbers for audio dial in. There is no free tier, and the Lite tier (\$120/year) only supports five people per call.

Skype

While this is largely an online videoconferencing service, you can hold multiple participant events that others can join on their smartphones using the app, even if they don't have an account. Might be a good option for units with widespread smartphone usage, but not necessarily online usage.

[Totally Free Conference Calls](https://TotallyFreeConferenceCalls.com)

No time limits and up to 500 participants. Dial-in numbers are toll calls, so long distance rates might apply for some callers.

[UberConference](https://UberConference.com)

The Free tier currently supports up to 50 participants and call durations longer than 45 minutes. The Business tier costs \$15/month and supports up to 100 participants and calls of up to five hours. Toll-free number access costs extra.

Walkthroughs and Resources

my.scouting.org

- [Organization Security Manager Help](#)
- [Member Manager Help](#)
- [Training Manager Help](#)
- [How to use Invitation Manager](#)
- [How to use Application Manager](#)
- [Printing Charter Certificates](#)
- [Printing Membership Cards](#)



www.scoutbook.com

- [Getting started with Scoutbook Tutorials](#)
- [Getting Started with Scoutbook Video](#)
- [Why Scoutbook Video](#)
- [Login Help](#)

[GLAAC My.Scouting Training](#)

Come learn about these online tools to help run your unit.

About this Project

“Safer at Home, Scouting at Home” is one of the Greater Los Angeles Area Council’s responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is our intention to continue maintaining this resource document in support of perpetual remote scouting. If you have any comments or questions, please contact the following:

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Contribution Ideas

- Formatting: We’re working on that..
- Links: Yeah, we need more of those. Thanks!