

# Virtual Scout Meetings

*Our “thanks” to Dave Shaw from MDSC Troop 24 for compiling almost all of the information listed!*

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# A Reminder about Youth Protection

- The BSA **requires** that for **all** meetings/outings we use the [Two Deep Leadership](#) method.
    - For meetings including online scout meetings
      - Two (2) BSA registered leaders must be involved
    - For merit badge classes/meetings
      - A parent, guardian or other adult leader must be present when a scout meets with a merit badge counselor.
    - Notify parents of meetings involving youth
- More info in the [BSA Guide to Safe Scouting](#)



# Basic Video Conferencing Security

## When creating/running the meeting:

- Become familiar with the features of your platform of choice
- Add a strong unique password (be careful with calendars)
- Enable a waiting room feature (if available)
- Disable “join before host”
- Add an alternate host (in case you are unavailable or late)
- Assign a facilitator for the meeting
- Assign a co-host
  - Monitors all attendees, chats, etc. and can override any unacceptable behavior



# Basic Video Conferencing Security

When creating/running the meeting (cont.):

- Limit/Disable Screen Sharing and Annotation
- Learn how to remove a participant (if needed, more on that later)
- Now is a great time to review [BSA Cyber Chip](#) with your unit



# Video Conference Etiquette

- Very important for effective VC meetings
- Be Prepared: (Create/Publish an Agenda)
  - Agenda should include basic meeting guidelines
- Test your platform before the meeting
  - Note: Some school provided equipment may block access to different VC platforms
- Find a quiet space to attend the meeting.
- When you join, mute your audio (background noise!)



# Video Conference Etiquette (cont.)

- If on Video, make sure people can see your face
- Dress appropriately
- Facilitators: plan to engage participants
- Get comfortable & stay put during the meeting (moving around is distracting)
- If possible use a service that offers a dial in number (mostly available from paid services).



# Virtual Meeting Platforms



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# Virtual Meeting Platforms

## Popular VC services

- BlueJeans
- FreeConferenceCall
- Google Meet
- GoToMeeting
- Skype
- Webex
- Zoom
- +Other platforms





# Bluejeans

## Pros:

- Participants: Max 50
- Meeting time: unlimited
- 5 hours of recording
- App: all platforms
- Dial in phone number available

## Cons:

- Cost: \$9.99/mo



# FreeConferenceCall.com

## Pros:

- Cost: Free (local acct or facebook)
- Meeting Length: up to 6 hrs.
- Browser/App: Browser OK + mobile app
- Participants: Max 1000
- Dial in # available
- Video available

## Cons:

- Can be “klunky”



# Google Meet (was Hangouts)

## Pros:

- Cost: Free with gmail account
- Meeting Length: Unlimited
- Browser/App: Browser OK + mobile app

## Cons:

- Participants: Max 10
- No Phone Dial in
- If you don't have a Google Account, the meeting organizer or someone must grant you access to the meeting

Upgrade: gSuite \$6/mo (100 participants & phone#)



# GoToMeeting

## Pros:

- Participants: Up to 3000
- Meeting time: unlimited
- App: all platforms
- Dial in # available ( +toll free)

## Cons:

- Cost: \$12.00/mo (professional) (free 14 day trial)
- Entry version doesn't offer co-organizers



# Skype (Microsoft)

## Pros:

- Cost: Free local account
- Participants: Max 50
- Meeting time: unlimited
- Browser/App: Browser OK + desktop/mobile app

## Cons:

- No Dial in number

Upgrade: \$5/mo → office365



# Webex (Cisco)

## Pros:

- Cost: Free must create acct.
- Participants: Max 100 (upgraded from 50)
- Meeting time: unlimited (up from 40 min)
- Browser/App: Browser OK + desktop/mobile app
- Has dial in phone #

## Cons:

- Can be difficult to use

Upgrade: \$13.5/mo/host (add users + recording)



# Zoom

NOTE: MDSC has a Zoom business account. Contact your District Executive for shared use for district- or council-related meetings.

## Pros:

- Most popular
- Cost: Free create acct. or use google or Facebook
- Participants: Max 100
- Browser/App: Browser OK +desktop/mobile app

## Cons:

- Meeting Length: 40 min. (groups); unlimited 1-1
- [Zoombombing!](#) Note: addressed in this [update](#)
- Upgrade: \$15/mo add users, phone # & recording



# Other Platforms/Resources

[Kahoot.com](https://www.kahoot.com) (online quiz platform)

- Create free home acct.
- Lots of Scout related games available
- Example [game](#)

[YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

- Tons of instructional Scouting stuff, not to mention great [BSA](#) and [Camp Wolfeboro](#) videos





# Resources

## Links

[Scouting Magazine](#)

[BSA Troop Leader Resources](#)

[BSA Troop Resources](#)

[BSA Covid Resources/FAQ](#)

[MDSC](#) (see activities section)

[Harvard Business Review virtual meetings](#)



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# Resources (cont.)

## Links

[Zoom training](#)/security pages



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# Thank You!

*Thank You for all you do for Scouting!*



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