



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

## MIAMI VALLEY COUNCIL

## Distance Scouting - Technology Update

We recognize that the current situation is a trying time for everyone, and it will force us all to reevaluate how we can keep doing the things we love including Scouting. To that end the Distance Scouting **Technology** Subcommittee has provided tips and tools so that you can keep the Scouting fire burning during our social distancing period.

Below are suggestions of different solutions you might use to host virtual Scouting events (den meetings, troop meetings, boards of reviews, etc.). The subcommittee is looking for your feedback on how Our Council can best support you moving forward. Please take a few minutes to complete a short survey by [CLICKING HERE](#).

## Youth Protection Guidelines

The safety of our members is first and foremost with any Scouting activity. As we make the shift to virtual methods for Scouting, don't forget that all YPT guidelines still apply. Check out this article from [Bryan on Scouting](#) for more details.

## Virtual Meeting Tools

There are many free and paid solutions out there and we've collected a few options for you to consider as you're formulating a plan for virtual Scouting:

[Cisco WebEx](#): Full featured, no time limit, allows up to 100 participants

[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

[FreeConferenceCall.com](#): Old standby for audio conferencing, can also share screen. Six-hour time limit, allows up to 1000 participants.

## Collaboration Tools

[Slack](#): Chat based collaboration, can setup up different channels for different projects or groups.

[Google Docs](#): Many are already familiar with this free service provided by Google. It is a great way to create documents, spreadsheets, and presentations to share or work on together remotely.

[Discord](#): Audio only and chat-based solution positioned to gamers. Some youth may already be familiar with this solution if they have used it for video gaming.

## Resources

[Scouting Show & Tell: Scouting remotely](#)

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

[Youth Protection and texting with Scouts](#)

[17 Tips for Leading Effective Conference Calls](#)

## Tips and Tricks

**Internet Struggles:** As every person's technology situation is different (computers, home internet speeds, etc.) the easiest and most reliable form of conferencing is an audio-only or "dial-in" conference call. Most cell phone plans include unlimited minutes and free nationwide calling, so using a service like [FreeConferenceCall.com](http://FreeConferenceCall.com) to create an audio only call will make it the easiest solution no matter what the scenario (call the number, enter the PIN, you're in the call). If you want to share content with your participants, you may be able to pair the conference call with a document or PowerPoint deck you email out separately for each person to review while on the call.

**Try it out:** If you aren't familiar with a service, have a test call with a few other people to get familiar with how the service works and you will be ready for the call with everyone! Also turn to some of your 'tech-savy' Scouts...they may indeed have the best answer.

**The Mute Button:** whenever you get a group of people together on a call, it's always best to remind everyone to stay on mute unless speaking at the beginning of your call. Many services allow the host to mute individuals or all attendees in case someone isn't on mute.