



SCOUTING at HOME

CHILD SAFE SCOUTING at HOME

Nothing is more important than the safety of the young people in our care.

Child safety in an online meeting is similar to regular meeting in the hall. We follow the same protocols.

Parents are always welcome. Nothing is a secret in Scouting.

Parents will be curious to sit in on early online meetings. This is good!

One-on-one communications between Leaders and youth members are not OK.

Use a shared Section Leaders' email to send out activity sheets and reminders to your Section, and for them to send in any inquiries or examples of their badge work or activity challenges,

Idea

Get a temporary email address to support online meetings.

For example, 1stwindyvalleycubs@gmail.com

All Section Leaders need the login and password to add this account to their emails.

When a Cub writes to a Leader, s/he is writing to the whole team.

When a Leader replies, they Reply All, so all Leaders see the response.

[Most Cubs will write from their parents' account, but this is still good practice.]

Communications – like emails about the next online meeting, or phone calls to parents – should be in normal Scout hours, not late at night or too early.

Our Code of Conduct and guidelines on unacceptable behaviour govern how we act as Leaders, whether in the hall, on camp, or running an online meeting.

You might remind your youth members:

To keep language and behaviour nice – it may not be apparent who is watching, like parents or younger siblings. The Scout Law and Promise still work in a virtual world.

To share their emails, photos and videos of their work with their parents before sending them to the Leaders.

Normal rules apply to behaviour between Scouts. No-one should make another youth member feel unsafe or excluded.

A youth member who feels unsafe, or unsure of what to do, should talk with a trusted adult as soon as possible.

Tips for running a safer ZOOM meeting:

Some functions to check out:

- Use the password function to avoid unexpected people joining you.
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/360033559832-Meeting-and-Webinar-Passwords->
- Use the waiting room, so you only let Scouting people in.
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/115000332726-Waiting-Room>
- Set screen share to “host only”
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362603-Host-and-Co-Host-Controls-in-a-Meeting>
- Disable “join before the host”. It’s a bit like letting the kids into the hall before you arrive!
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/202828525-Join-Before-Host>
- You could disable the chat function, including private chat between participants
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/115004809306-Controlling-and-Disabling-In-Meeting-Chat>
- Share the work: the host Leader can make a fellow Leader a ‘co-host’ so they can help manage muting and the supervision of the room. Just like at the hall, they can help with sharing content when appropriate. It also means, if you use “break out rooms”, Leaders can move between “rooms” just like you do in the hall to check in on Patrols or Sixes.
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362603-Host-and-Co-Host-Controls-in-a-Meeting>

There is a great video on Meeting Controls at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygZ96J_z4AY

- Some of these settings need to be done in each meeting invite, or during each meeting.
- There are more functions if you pay for Zoom (about \$20 a month).

Also:

- Be aware anyone could be recording your meeting, without permission.
- For younger sections, send meeting invitations to parents. For older sections, send to both parents and youth.
- Remember you are always visible.
 - Don’t eat or drink anything you wouldn’t eat or drink in the hall.
 - Keep your background blurred.

Leaders are learners too:

- Understand some Leaders and youth members will be better at this than others - allow time for everyone to learn
- Look after yourself as Leaders too – this is a new world for you, ask to visit other Groups to learn and share your experiences (as travel isn’t required this should be easier to do)
- Enable Leaders to share their experiences good and bad – learn by doing!