

Virtual Merit Badge Guidelines



The following are guidelines for participating in virtual merit badge sessions in lieu of personal face-to-face instruction due to special circumstances. Each circumstance should be considered by the Council Advancement Committee and unit leader.

As a Scout:

- I agree that in order for me to begin any merit badge in a virtual setting, I must request and obtain my unit leader's (Scoutmaster's) permission.
- I agree that I will only work and connect with a merit badge counselor virtually with my parent's permission.
- I agree that I will complete and present proof of the current Cyber Chip appropriate to my age. (<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/cyber-chip/>)
- I agree that when communicating with my virtual merit badge counselor, I will ALWAYS ensure that at least one other adult is present in those communications; whether it be via video conference, video chat, email, text, phone call or any other form not specifically listed here.
- I promise that I will actually and personally complete each project and fulfill all requirements for the merit badges that I request instruction and counseling in a virtual setting.
- I agree to wear my uniform to all video conference/chats merit badge sessions.
- I understand that if a requirement uses action words like "show," "demonstrate," "tell," "explain" or "discuss" and etc., I agree that I must be prepared to exhibit said action word(s) through the use of electronic or digital technology when fulfilling requirements. If I am unable to do so, I must wait until such a time as I can present those requirements to the merit badge counselor or my unit leader in person.
- I promise that I will not abuse the privilege that I have been given to conduct a merit badge in a virtual setting. I will not bully, or otherwise disparage, any scout that may be in a virtual setting with me, and understand that if I do so this privilege may be revoked and I may not be allowed to continue in this setting.

As a Parent:

- I agree to allow my scout to engage with youth and adults in a virtual setting while working on a virtual merit badge.
- I understand that my scout will be required to interact and communicate with an adult in a virtual setting and that I will monitor such interaction as necessary to ensure the safety of all individuals involved in those activities.
- I agree to ensure that my scout actually and personally completes all projects and requirements for the merit badges which are requested to be performed in a virtual setting.
- I agree that upon reading the information expressed in this "Virtual Merit Badge Guidelines" and "Important excerpts from the Guide To Advancement - 2019, No.33088", that upon registering, I am communicating that both my scout and I agree to follow these guidelines with the merit badge counselor and my scout's unit leader.

Special Considerations for Parents:

Please consider strongly the following as a precaution for your Scout's safety and youth protection to prevent future contacts of one-on-one by allowing your Scout to use your email, Facebook account and phone numbers as they roam the virtual merit badge world.