



TROOP LEADER'S GUIDE TO SUCCESS

Getting Started with a Virtual Troop Experience

Girl Scout troops are where girls build life-long friendships. Meeting virtually is a great way to keep the girls in your troop connected when many activities are cancelled. With your help, Girl Scouts can be a consistent activity in girl's lives despite the uncertainty of what this school year looks like.

What's the same?

- Girls love Girl Scouts! Girls love seeing their friends, learning new things together, and making a difference.
- Girls can choose the badges and journeys they want to earn. Don't forget about fun patches and just for fun meetings!
- Girls develop entrepreneurship skills through the [Fall Product Program](#) and [Girl Scout Cookie Program](#). GSEMA will provide the guidelines and tips you need for a safe and effective online sale. The proceeds from these programs help fund supplies and events, and reduce the cost of Girl Scout activities for families.
- You, your co-leader(s), and your Friends & Family Network are a team to support the girls in their virtual adventures.

What's different?

- It's easy for an expert to come visit your troop!
- Prepping for a virtual meeting often means finding digital resources rather than physical resources.
- Families are responsible for ensuring girls have the supplies they need. Most activities can be done with household supplies but if specialized supplies are needed, make sure you let them know with plenty of time or have the troop provide the supplies through mail or contactless deliveries.

For more tips and resources visit

gsema.org/volunteerresources#virtualtroops

Tips for a successful virtual troop experience—*from leaders who've been there!*

Communication is key!

Make sure families know what supplies their girl needs and how to access your virtual meeting.

Supplement with snail mail!

Whether it be pen pals or meeting supplies, girls love getting mail.

You don't have to earn badges and journeys each meeting!

Just for fun meetings can contribute to girls feeling comfortable and confident within a virtual space.

Add activities!

Incorporate [GSEMA events](#) to fill out your troop year.

Choose wisely.

Some badges and activities work better virtually than others. You don't have to offer every badge.

Find community together.

Theme days and troop [service projects](#) can help girls connect with each other.

Use familiar tech tools.

You can use your preferred technology platform or [request use of a GSEMA Zoom room](#).



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Transition your existing troop in 3 easy steps!

Are you an existing troop leader who wants to take your current troop virtual? It's easier than you might think! Follow these simple steps:

- 1) Connect with your families.** Let them know you are excited to have their girls join you virtually. Just like an in-person parents and caregiver kick-off meeting, let them know the who, what, when, and where of your troop!
 - a. Make sure girls who are participating are renewed as Girl Scout members. gsema.org/renew
 - b. Open to new girls joining? Let us know by completing the [Opportunity Catalog survey](#).
- 2) Get input from the girls.** Ask the girls what they want to do. Use the GSUSA [Badge Explorer](#) to see what badges and Journeys get them excited. Remind them of the things they loved last year that you can build on virtually this year.
- 3) Plan your year.** Schedule your virtual meetings using your preferred platform—don't forget to invite special guests! Follow these links to [book a GSEMA Zoom room](#) or [get more practice hosting in a safe space](#).

Start a new troop in 5 easy steps!

Are you new to Girl Scouting or just want to start a second troop that virtual based?

- 1) Register.** [Register as a volunteer](#) or login to [your MyGS account](#) to add a role.
- 2) Invite girls to join!** Let the girls in your network know you are ready to go with a virtual troop. Families can register at gsema.org/join. Provide them with your troop number to enter during the registration process.
- 3) Connect with your families.** Let them know you are excited to have their girls join you virtually. Just like an in-person kick-off meeting, let parents and caregivers know the who, what, when, and where of your troop!
- 4) Get to know your girls.** Take a meeting or two for the girls to [get to know each other](#). Then ask the girls what they want to do. Use the GSUSA [Badge Explorer](#) to see what badges and journeys get them excited.
- 5) Plan your year.** Schedule your virtual meetings using your preferred platform—be sure to invite special guests! Follow these links to [book a GSEMA Zoom room](#) or [get more practice hosting in a safe space](#).

Using Zoom?

GSEMA Support Just for You

[Zoom](#) is an intuitive online video conferencing tool that can be used on laptops, tablets, and smartphones.

Learn how to [set up a free personal Zoom account](#) for meetings 40 min or less here. For virtual meetings longer than 40 minutes, you can [request use of GSEMA's Zoom rooms](#). Troops may request a maximum of one 90 minute troop meeting block every 2 weeks.

Do you want to get hands on practice in a safe space before you meet with girls?

Register for a [small group practice session](#).