

Have girls take the [Internet Safety Pledge](#) to teach, encourage and support web safety and respectful “net-iquette” while online.

Make sure that the adult volunteer troop leader(s) are still co-leading the virtual meeting and are the person(s) initiating and doing the inviting to the virtual troop meeting. This is especially important for girls under the age of 13 however should be practiced always, with all girls in Girl Scouts.

Be sure to research the video conference service prior to selecting and implementing an appropriate video conference service provider as a virtual troop meeting host. Be sure to read and understand the terms of use of the selected platform. Also, learn about the privacy guidelines and precautions that are available concerning the platform prior to implementing your virtual troop meeting.

Make sure the virtual lines are set to private so that only invitees can attend (not a public meeting space).

Make sure that there is nothing on the virtual stream that identifies a girl or volunteer personally or reveals a personal address, home address, or a person’s physical location. To further protect privacy of personal space, there is typically an option to obscure the background in the room, if that is helpful. Girls can also pick fun nicknames to identify themselves on the meeting attendee list or use their first name only. Let girls know about these options so that they can learn about them.

Continue to adhere to the two unrelated adult volunteer rule when gathering with girls virtually, whenever possible. It’s important that girls understand they are in the same safe Girl Scout space as they are with in-person meetings. They are cared for and they still have two dedicated unrelated adults who they can count on.

Do not record troop meetings and ask that girls do not record troop meetings. Some virtual meeting platforms offer a consent option for all participating members prior to activating the recording feature; however, the majority of girls are minors and are not of the age to legally consent, so recording of regular recurring troop meetings is not permitted. If girls want to prepare a special recording session, make sure to obtain permission slips from each girl’s legal guardian, as with any special activity, as well as council staff approval to record the session. Also please be aware that some virtual meeting platforms have the capability to save, store, and can potentially re-use, recordings on their technology.

Make sure that girls know that screen shots taken of the group, particularly when all the girls involved are not aware that it is happening, are strongly discouraged. Girls love to take pictures and share them on social media. When done in the right manner, this is a fun and safe thing to do. However, parents, guardians and caregivers have their own feelings and personal rules in their homes about photographs and social media, particularly with younger girls, so it’s very important to be respectful of that. Also similar to recording meetings, note that some virtual meeting applications will save, and can potentially re-use, photographs taken on their technology.

When sharing any material developed by a third party, be mindful that third party products and services may have their own terms of use and privacy policy. The user should always read through, understand and abide by third party terms of use.

Be sure that any girl emails are not available to anyone but the Troop leader. It is important to protect against unauthorized, uncleared individuals having access to a girl’s email or be able to contact her outside of the meeting in any manner.

## Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge\* for All Girl Scouts

- I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number(s), parent’s or guardians’ work address/telephone number(s), and the name and location of my school without the permission of my parent or guardian.
- I will tell an adult right away if I come across or receive any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.
- I will always follow the rules of Internet sites, including those rules that are based on age of use, parental approval and knowledge, and public laws.
- I will never agree to get together with someone I “meet” online without first checking with my parents or guardians. If my parents or guardian agree to a meeting, I will arrange it in a public place and bring a parent or guardian along.
- I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parent or guardian.
- I will talk with my parent or guardian so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide on the time of day that I can be online, the length of time that I can be online, and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not access other areas or fail to follow these rules without their permission.
- I will follow all the Girl Scout Terms and Conditions related to Digital Cookie, as well as all internet safety guidelines related to all other Girl Scout product sales.
- I will always practice online etiquette (good manners) when online by:
  - Not spamming others.
  - Not bullying or tolerating bullying (and always telling a trusted adult if I witness bullying).
  - Not using bad language.
- I will be guided by the Girl Scout Promise and Law in all that I do online.

Signed,

Girl Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*The GSUSA Online Safety Pledge is based upon the Online Safety Pledge developed by the [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#). (Revised August 2014)