

# Scouts BSA Summer Camp FAQ

This is the one spot where you will find the most up to date answers to your frequently asked questions regarding our Mayflower Council resident camp.

[Click here to download as a PDF](#)

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## Stay Safe Special Shoulder Patch

Join us in supporting our frontline workers! We have designed a special limited edition Mayflower Council shoulder patch. Only 250 have been ordered and we will not be reordering. We will be donating 50% of the raised proceeds to support our local hero's fighting the coronavirus. Each patch is only \$20.00.

*Pre-orders are being taken – order yours today before they are gone!*

We have chosen to support Boston HealthCare for the Homeless (BHCHP) COVID program. We chose them because the homeless community was and is being hit hard by COVID. 1 in 3 homeless in Boston have had the virus. The population has unique and hard to manage needs. BHCHP has long performed outstanding service to this population with limited resources and under very difficult circumstances. They set up and ran COVID housing for homeless individuals with COVID, and managed all the health care issues outside the hospital, taking critical pressure off the hospital as we surged. They staffed Boston

Hope at the convention center. They set up and ran 2 health tents in the city for homeless with COVID, and they handle(d) the health care needs across the cities shelters.

Place Your Order

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# Metacomet Stay-at-Home Cub Scout Activity Ideas

## *Online/Virtual Meetings*

- One Den was setting up a service called Jitsi to host virtual Den Meetings
- Virtual Rank Advancement Ceremony – – Many packs Blue and Gold dinners were cancelled. Cubmaster could host Webinar and recognize the Cub Scouts that earned ranks etc. Thought was that recognizing sooner rather than later would be more significant to the Scout.
- MidAmerica Council conducts virtual “den” meetings that are open to everyone. These meetings are based on completing a Cub Scout Adventure and earning a coveted belt loop. Meetings are open to all and are based on Cub Scout Year. For example, Monday is Tigers, Tuesday Wolves, Wednesday Bears, Thursday Webelos. Meetings require pre-registration but are free to join. The schedule is updated frequently  
<https://mac-bsa.org/scoutingathome/scouting-at-home-cub-scouts/>

***Virtual Tours & Fun “Trips”*** For Example many organizations are hosting live or recorded activities. Den leaders could pick one, encourage Scouts to complete it with their family and have a web meeting to discuss what they saw learned. Other

organizations have live Webcams allowing Scouts to see what's happening without leaving home. Organizations offering programs like this include:

- Mount Washington Observatory  
<https://mountwashington.org/classroom>
- Mass Audubon  
<https://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/explore-nature-at-home>
- Boston Symphony Orchestra  
<https://www.bso.org/brands/bso/at-home/bso-homeschool.asp>
- Museum of Science <https://www.mos.org/MOSatHome>
- Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum (They have programs at all their Museums)  
<https://airandspace.si.edu/event-series/stem-30>
- Roger Williams Park Zoo <http://www.rwpzoo.org>
- New England Aquarium  
<https://www.neaq.org/visit/at-home-events-and-activities/>

***Several Organizations have created lists of activities and resources***

The New England Patriots have a collection of online resources they have assembled. Everything from a coloring contest, a reading contest to STEM material from other organizations  
<https://www.patriots.com/community/rbtl>

Good Housekeeping has posted an article listing 30 virtual tours  
<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/travel/a31784720/best-virtual-tours/>

NASA International Space Station Views of Earth  
<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/iss-hdev-payload>

The MidAmerica Council has posted several other ideas & resources on their Scouting at home site.

<https://mac-bsa.org/scoutingathome/>

### ***Other Virtual Ideas and Activities***

- Career Day – Parents would discuss their career either via recorded video or live webinar.
- Virtual Project or Collection Fair – – Have Scouts share their collections or something they have been working on. Gives Scouts ability to present something important to them to their friends. This adds enough structure and variety to a webinar to keep Scouts engaged
- Virtual camping trip where each scout camped in their backyard and they met online around a virtual camp fire and did scout songs and skits (done by the scout or scouts if more than one in the family, or the scouts family).
- Team scavenger hunt using “Goose Chase” application.  
<https://www.goosechase.com>
- Purchase or collect components of and deliver “Genius Kits” to have a project. Dens can do together via video conference. The kit would include needed components for a specific activity.  
<http://usscouts.org/bbugle/bb0502/bbpackden.html>,  
Several ideas for Genius Kits on Pinterest  
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/565694403164034257/>
- Rocket Day – – Purchase or have families rocket kits. Scouts to assemble rocket at home Launch Day, ask Scouts to arrive as Dens at staggered arrival times to keep group size down. Ask parents to pre-pack Rocket parachutes & have prepacked engines that can simply be inserted into rocket. Set up so each Scout can launch 3-4 times and be on their way before next Den comes.
- Plan outdoor hikes on local conservation property.
- Down-town scavenger hunt. Post clues in local business store windows. Scouts and their families would search for clues and take pictures in front of the business. Businesses would benefit from increased traffic; unit

would get to post pack logo in store window over a weekend.

- Bike Safety / Bike Rodeo – Set up outdoor bike course in School or Church parking lot. Ask local Police to come and speak about how to bike safely. Try to get a local bike shop to teach basic maintenance to the Scouts.

### ***Do at Home Activities***

- Focus earning Religious Emblem
- Work on Cyberchip
- Make Cards for Doctors and Nurses at Local Hospitals
- Make Cards for residents at Long Term Care Facilities

### ***Mayflower Council Resource***

<https://www.mayflowerbsa.org/scouting-at-home>

**Click Here to download PDF of this document.**

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# **Virtual Merit Badge Offerings – May/June**

The Mayflower Council has secured merit badge councilors to teach a few merit badges virtually. Scouts can now sign up for the following virtual merit badge offerings. More offerings will be coming soon.

Space is limited, please sign up as soon as possible. Each course is only \$10.00.

Click on the merit badge you are interested in to sign up.

***Family Life*** – Continue on your trail to Eagle Scout with Family Life Merit Badge. While we're spending time at home,

make this time quality family time! Dates: Monday(s), June 1, June 8, June 15, & June 22.

**First Aid** – Continue on your trail to Eagle Scout with First Aid Merit Badge. Expand on your Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class Skills. Learn the skills that are integral to being a prepared Scout. Dates: Thursday(s) and Monday(s) May 28, June 1, June 4, June 8 & June 11.

**Entrepreneurship** – Do you have a new business idea? Do you want to talk to someone who started their own business? Want to learn how to make that idea a reality? Join us for a remote and virtual Merit Badge Experience to earn your Entrepreneurship Merit Badge! Dates: Wednesday(s), May 27, June 3, & June 10

**Astronomy** – Look out at the night sky and learn about the amazing celestial bodies around us! Now is the best time to take this badge as there is an upcoming astronomical events that we'll be able to look for on clear nights! Note: Having access to a telescope will help with this merit badge. Dates: Thursday(s), May 28, June 4, June 11, & June 18.

**Citizenship In The Nation** – Join us to have conversations about the founding principles of the United States, how our local representatives work with others around the Country, and how our Scouts can do their best to do their duty to their country! Dates: Monday(s), June 1, June 8, June 15, & June 22.

**Music** – Do you play an instrument? Do you sing? Do you appreciate listening to or creating music? Join us for a remote and virtual merit badge experience to earn your Music Merit Badge! Note: Scouts ought to have some understanding of how to read music on a staff. Dates: Thursday(s), May 28, June 4, June 11, & June 18.

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# Camp Resolute & Camp Squanto Summer Camp Update

May 18, 2020

Hello Scouting Families,

As you've proven over the last few weeks, our Scouting communities are resilient, prepared, and able to adapt to any situation. Now, as we look ahead to the 2020 camping season, the question on everyone's mind is, "What is Scouts BSA resident camp going to look like and is it safe to attend?"

To alleviate some concerns, we thought it would be helpful to share with you our current decisions as well as modifications to our pre-camp preparations and to the camp experiences offered this summer.

First and foremost, the health and safety of our Scouting families, volunteers and staff remains our number one priority as we continue to adapt to this unprecedented situation. Our council continues to develop new plans and review existing procedures that will keep our Scouts and volunteers safe.

The decision to operate our council camps will be based on our ability to operate safely within the CDC's summer camp guidelines, in addition to recommendations from local, state and BSA authorities. **Rest assured that the council will only conduct camp if it is legal, safe, and practical to do so.**

This summer may not look like all the summers that have come before or any of the summers that will come after. What we do know is that camp plays a vital role in the lives of our Scouts and Scouters. At this time, we are taking steps to

determine how we can best serve our Scouting community this summer.

**As of today, May 18, 2020, we are announcing the following decisions:**

The following camps and programs have been **cancelled** for 2020.

- Resident camping at Camp Resolute. All troops will be accommodated at Camp Squanto.
- National Youth Leadership Training: June 28 – July 4 at Camp Squanto
- Trail to Eagle Week: July 19 – 24 at Camp Resolute
- Venture Week: July 19 – 24 at Camp Resolute
- National Youth Leadership Training: August 2 – 7 at Camp Resolute

Scouts BSA resident camping at Camp Squanto has been **postponed** to later in the summer. The modified schedule is as follows:

- July 12 – 18
- July 19 – 25
- July 26 – August 1
- August 2 – 8
- August 9 – 15

The following Scouts BSA resident camp **modifications** will be made:

- Weekly attendance will be capped at 250 campers
- Tent occupancy will be limited to one camper
- Leaders will need to remain in camp for the whole week

For those that had signed up for any of these events, you will receive an additional email with steps regarding refunds, transfers, and additional information about the event. For any event cancelled you will receive a 100% refund.

**So what can you expect this summer?**



Just because some of our planned outdoor experiences cannot happen as expected, we are still committed to helping you and other families experience camp in a safe environment. We understand the importance of an outdoor in-person experience, and we will find ways to help your family experience the fun of camp this summer. It will look different from a traditional camp and that is ok. In the coming days you will see us roll out the opportunity to participate in a virtual Scouts BSA camp this summer, for those not comfortable with the in-person experience.

Allow us to share a glimpse of some of the additional elements of what “safely operating” our camps in this new environment will entail. While this list is not comprehensive and our review is an ongoing process, you can expect some significant updates to many of the following:

- **Check-in Screening** – Upon arrival at our camps, staff and participants will be screened and their temperature will be taken. Those with temperatures above 100.4 will not be allowed entry; those who travelled with them will also not be allowed entry.
- **Food Service** – We will be eliminating all self-service options during meals (including beverages and salad bars) and all serving will be done by trained staff.
- **Sickness at Camp** – Participants presenting symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent home.
- **Visitors** – Will not be allowed into camp.
- **Sub-camps** – Units will be divided into sub-camps within Camp Squanto to reduce exposure risk for participants. A number of activities will be managed within each sub-camp or on a scheduled rotation where cleaning can be done between groups.
- **Family Day & Closing Campfire** – Will NOT be held this summer.
- **Hand Washing** – Participants will be directed to wash their hands often. Additional hand washing and

sanitizing stations will be available.

- **Accommodation Cleaning** – Camp provided lodging, such as tents and cabins, will be disinfected before new participants arrive.
- **Shower Houses & Restrooms** – Shower houses and restrooms will be cleaned 3 times a day.
- **Protective Gear** – We will be reviewing best methods for use of gloves, masks, etc., while on our properties.
- **Camp Equipment** – We will properly sanitize all community and reusable program equipment after each use.
- **Social Distancing** – We will avoid activities where appropriate social distance cannot be maintained.

These items and many more are all under review as part of the comprehensive evaluation now underway of our standards and policies. As we move forward, you can expect a comprehensive list complete with instructions.

We thank you for your continued commitment to Scouting and for helping us prepare and adapt to any situation. We will continue to monitor the situation daily and relay any updates as they become available on our council website and through our social media channels. If you have specific questions please email them to [covid19@mayflowerbsa.org](mailto:covid19@mayflowerbsa.org) and we will respond to them as quickly as possible.

Please stay safe and keep Scouting!

Mike Rotar  
Council President

Josh Paulin  
Council Commissioner

Bryan Feather  
Scout Executive / CEO

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# Cub Scout Summer Camp Update

May 18, 2020

Hello Scouting Families,

As you've proven over the last few weeks, our Scouting communities are resilient, prepared, and able to adapt to any situation. Now, as we look ahead to the 2020 camping season, the question on everyone's mind is, "What is Adventure Day Camp going to look like and is it safe to attend?"

To alleviate some concerns, we thought it would be helpful to share with you our current decisions as well as modifications to our pre-camp preparations and to the camp experiences offered this summer.

First and foremost, the health and safety of our Scouting families, volunteers and staff remains our number one priority as we continue to adapt to this unprecedented situation. Our council continues to develop new plans and review existing procedures that will keep our Scouts and volunteers safe.

The decision to operate our council camps will be based on our ability to operate safely within the CDC's summer camp guidelines, in addition to recommendations from local, state and BSA authorities. **Rest assured that the council will only conduct camp if it is legal, safe, and practical to do so.**

This summer may not look like all the summers that have come before or any of the summers that will come after. What we do know is that camp plays a vital role in the lives of our Scouts and Scouters. At this time, we are taking steps to determine how we can best serve our Scouting community this

summer.

**As of today, May 18, 2020, we are announcing the following decisions:**

The following Cub Scout camps and activities have been **cancelled** for 2020.

- Adventure Overnight Week: August 2 – 5
- Adventure Overnight Week Plus: August 6 – 7
- Camp Norse Day Camp: Cancelled by the Narragansett Council

The Adventure Day Camp has been **postponed** to later in the summer. The modified schedule is as follows:

- July 13 – 17
- July 20 – 24
- July 27 – 31
- August 3 – 7
- August 10 – 14

The following Adventure Day Camp **modifications** will be made:

- Weekly attendance will be limited to 36 participants
- There will be no bus service to/from day camp

For those that had signed up for any of these events, you will receive an additional email with steps regarding refunds, transfers, and additional information about the event. For any event cancelled, you will receive a 100% refund. If you are interested in signing up for Adventure Day Camp we suggest doing so soon, as we anticipate camp selling out given the reduced capacity.

**So what can you expect this summer?**

Just because some of our planned outdoor experiences cannot happen as expected, we are still committed to helping you and other families experience camp in a safe environment. We

understand the importance of an outdoor in-person experience, and we will find ways to help your family experience the fun of camp this summer. It will look different from a traditional camp and that is ok. In the coming days you will see us roll out the opportunity to participate in a virtual day camp this summer, for those not comfortable with the in-person experience.

Allow us to share a glimpse of some of the additional elements of what “safely operating” our camps in this new environment will entail. While this list is not comprehensive and our review is an ongoing process, you can expect some significant updates to many of the following:

- **Check-in Screening** – Upon arrival at our camps, staff and participants will be screened and their temperature will be taken. Those with temperatures above 100.4 will not be allowed entry; those who travelled with them will also not be allowed entry.
- **Sickness at Camp** – Participants presenting symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent home.
- **Visitors** – Will not be allowed into camp.
- **Group Size** – group size will be reduced from 10-12 participants last year to 5-6 this year
- **Family BBQ & Closing Campfire** – Will NOT be held this summer.
- **Hand Washing** – Participants will be directed to wash their hands often. Additional hand washing and sanitizing stations will be available.
- **Restrooms** – Restrooms will be cleaned 3 times a day.
- **Protective Gear** – We will be reviewing best methods for use of gloves, masks, etc., while on our properties.
- **Camp Equipment** – We will properly sanitize all community and reusable program equipment after each use.
- **Social Distancing** – We will avoid activities where appropriate social distance cannot be maintained.

These items and many more are all under review as part of the

comprehensive evaluation now underway of our standards and policies. As we move forward, you can expect a comprehensive list complete with instructions.

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Please stay safe and keep Scouting!

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# **Metacomet      District      May Roundtable**

[Click here to view slides from the May roundtable meeting.](#)

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# Cranberry Harbors District May Roundtable

MayRT\_SlidesFinal

SafetyMoment\_May2020

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## April Roundtable: More Remote Programming ideas

Thank you to all Cub Scout leaders that joined us for both the April 2nd Virtual Roundtable and the Cub Scout Check-in virtual meeting on April 22nd. We appreciate everyone sharing their ideas and plans for remote programming for their Units!

Below is an update to our working document of Scouting at Home ideas for Cub Scout Packs:

### **Cub Scout Program Ideas: COVID-19**

- Build a Kahoot game for different activities/adventure loops/scouting history
- Virtual scavenger hunt
  - Ex. The first person to bring me a/an \_\_\_ gets a point. The person with the most points gets bragging rights
- Paper airplane contest
- Outdoor scavenger hunt
  - Send out a list of objects/items to take pictures of and bring to the next virtual meeting. Ex.

pinecone, round rock, 5 different shaped leaves, etc.

- Virtual Pack/Den meeting openings: put together different recordings of scouts saying the pledge, oath, and law and use them for meeting openers.
- Scout law in action:
  - My family is doing \_\_\_ to be **Trustworthy** during quarantine.
- Invite people to your den/pack meetings
  - This includes firefighters, nurses, ecotarium employees, police officers, etc.
- Make up a secret code and have scouts try and decode it.
- Prepare a meal (older) or make a nutritious snack (younger)
- Write thank-you notes
- Be Prepared: Create/update an emergency preparedness kit for the house
- Plant a seed: Start a mini in-home garden/plant a flower inside. Discuss what makes plants grow and how to care for plants.
- Energy-saving projects to do around the house: Discuss what it means to conserve energy and why it's important.
- Make a puzzle out of paper (draw/print out a picture and cut it into different pieces. Then number the pieces and try to solve the puzzle with the den)
- Family history/family tree: discuss where your family comes from and draw your immediate family on a family tree. Share what you found out about your nationality
- Make a den/pack cookbook with the favorite thing you've had/baked during quarantine
- Take a virtual tour of an aquarium. Talk about the things you've learned.  
<https://www.neaq.org/visit/at-home-events-and-activities/>
- Host a song/story night with the pack/den and have scouts share stories or songs they know. Ask in town



troop(s) to help put on a skit, story, or song.

- Take a virtual tour of a National Park. Talk about the things you've learned.  
<https://www.travelandleisure.com/trip-ideas/national-parks/virtual-national-parks-tours>
  - Create a piece of art, whether a 4 box comic strip, self-portrait, or freestyle image and share with everyone what you did. Host a virtual art show with the art and invite teachers, parents, and local town officials.
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### Zoom Meeting Scavenger Hunt:

**A scout is trustworthy.** This means you are honest and can be relied on. For example, if your neighbor went on vacation, you could be trusted with their spare key. Bring me a key.

**A scout is loyal.** This means you are dedicated to a person or group. Bring me something that shows you're loyal. It can be an award, belt loop, trophy, or medal.

**A scout is helpful:** you are giving and ready to help. I bet you and your family have donated money to a charity. Bring me a bill of any kind: 1, 5, 10, 20, 50, or 100.

**A scout is friendly:** you are kind and pleasant to your friends. Bring me a picture of or a gift from a friend.

**A scout is courteous.** You are polite and have good manners. For example, when you are eating, you always use a napkin. Bring me a napkin.

**A scout is kind.** You always behave in a way that shows you care. If a family member were sick, you would bring them something to make them feel better. What is it? Go get it. (medicine)

**A scout is obedient.** You are willing to follow directions or

orders. A scout will clean his room if told to do so. A dog will sit when told to sit. Show me a picture of a dog.

**A scout is cheerful.** You are happy and a joy to be around. You smile and make others smile. Show me your happy face.

**A scout is thrifty.** We are learning how to use our money and resources carefully, not to be wasteful. Many families use coupons to help save money. Bring me a coupon.

**A scout is brave.** Many scouts have or will need to face danger or fear. When a scout gets hurt, they will be brave and keep going but may need first aid. Bring me a Band-Aid or gauze.

**A scout is clean.** You all are learning to keep your home and belongings safe from germs and dirt. Bring me a broom.

**A scout is reverent.** This means you show respect. Some show reverence to God or a group of people. Everyone shows reverence to their family. Bring me something that represents your religion or bring me a family photo.

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We have ALSO posted ideas for remote programming at the following links:

*April Roundtable: Remote Programming Ideas*

*Scouting At Home*

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# Rank Advancement and Covid-19: April Update

## COVID-19 FAQ

UPDATED 4/13/20 – The most recent updates are indicated by a diamond in front of the question.

## Advancement

### **Q: How can advancement be tracked remotely?**

Scouting units should use Scoutbook to record and track advancement.

To track advancement remotely, parents should:

- Connect with their child's member profile via an invitation that the unit leader sends within Scoutbook. You may also connect to your youth via the Scouting app "Add a Parent connection."
- Once a connection is made, the parent should use the Scouting app, found in both the App Store and on Google Play, to stay connected with their unit.
- The Scouting app provides parents the ability to report any advancement that was completed at home.

Learn more about how to start using Scoutbook and how to connect parents to their Scouts at [Scoutbook.com](https://www.scoutbook.com).

## Advancement – Cub Scouts

### **Q: May parents sign off on Webelos and Arrow of Light requirements?**

Yes. Through July 31, 2020, parents and other adults in the

Cub Scout's family, may sign off on Webelos and Arrow of Light requirements. We strongly encourage that parents use the Scouting App or ScoutBook to record completion of their child's requirements.

**Q: If my den is behind in advancement due to COVID-19, can my Cub Scout continue to work on advancement through the summer?**

Yes. Cub Scouts can continue to work on their current den's advancement through July 31, 2020. This is to provide any additional time a Cub Scout needs to complete their badge of rank; if they earn their badge of rank prior to July 31, 2020, they may advance to the next rank.

**◆ Q: Can the Arrow of Light (fifth-grade dens) requirements fulfill the requirement to visit a troop or attend a troop outing to function as a patrol?**

Yes. Two things to keep in mind, the standard of completion for Cub Scout advancement is "Do Your Best," so given the circumstances, we want to look at the purpose behind the requirements. Remember that doing nothing is never doing your best.

Dens can visit a virtual troop meeting to see the patrol method and youth leadership in action. Since the den cannot attend a troop campout or outing, the idea is for the den to function as a patrol while attending the virtual troop meeting. During this time, a virtual den meeting where the den functions as a patrol can be done. Elect a patrol leader, pick a patrol name, play a virtual game together as a patrol. Plenty of opportunities to Do Your Best to meet the intention of the requirement. Remember to maintain all youth protection standards online.

**Advancement – Scouts BSA, Venturing and**

## Sea Scouts

**◆ Q: Can merit badge counseling or Nova/Supernova counseling be done using digital technologies like Zoom or WebEx?**

Yes, registered merit badge counselors or Nova counselors/Supernova mentors may work with youth using digital platforms, ensuring that all youth protection measures noted in the Guide to Safe Scouting and BSA's social media guidelines are in place. In addition to youth protection, the advancement guidelines in Guide to Advancement (GTA) Section 7 are required.

**◆ Q: Are merit badge counselors allowed to provide online instruction?**

Yes. Merit badge counselors should follow the guidelines in the Guide to Advancement 7.0.3.2 and ensure you are adhering to all youth protection requirements and online communications guidelines. It is acceptable—and sometimes preferable—for merit badges to be taught in group settings, including online instruction. We currently allow group instruction at camp and merit badge midways, fairs, clinics, or similar events. These can be efficient methods, and interactive group discussions can support learning. Gathering a group online can also be beneficial. Guest experts and speakers that assist registered and approved counselors may be more willing to speak to a larger online audience. Slide shows, skits, demonstrations, panels, and various other techniques can also be employed, but as any teacher can attest, not everyone will learn all the material. Therefore, the standards we use to verify that each Scout has fulfilled requirements must not be relaxed. Merit badge counselors must be sure that each Scout has individually gained the knowledge intended. When accomplished, counselors can easily sign off requirements via ScoutBook.

**Q: Can I connect directly with my Scouts/Venturers/Sea Scouts if I am a merit badge counselor?**

Yes. In ScoutBook, merit badge counselors can now connect

directly with the Scouts they are counseling; see <https://discussions.scouting.org/t/march-23-2020-scoutbook-updates/165970> NOTE: Scouts/Venturers/Sea Scouts still must get approval from their leader, according to Guide to Advancement 7.0.3.0.

**Q: How will I know if a Scout/Venturer/Sea Scout has obtained approval from their leader to work on a merit badge?**

In the member profile, you will see if the leader has signed off with their approval.

**Q: What if my member profile shows that my merit badge counselor status has expired:**

Check with your council. Local councils may need to upload their latest list of approved merit badge counselors.

**Q: Will unit leaders know that a merit badge counselor has connected with one of their Scouts/Venturers/Sea Scouts?**

Yes. The unit Key 3 will receive an email that includes the name of the merit badge counselor, the Scout, and the name of the merit badge.

**Q: What if I have other merit badge/ScoutBook questions?**

See <https://help.scoutbook.com/knowledge-base/scoutbook-merit-badge-counselor-council-upload-faq/>

**◆ Q: What changes have been made to rank advancement/camping requirements given the need to maintain social distancing during this time?**

We have implemented temporary changes, detailed below, to allow Scouts to complete rank requirements, detailed below, by video conferencing through September 1, 2020. This deadline will be re-evaluated as needed.

The goal when using video conferencing must be to preserve the ideals and intent of each requirement as best as possible. Scoutmasters or their designee(s) should remain mindful of the Methods of Scouting, such as the Patrol Method, before implementing the modified requirements listed below. Some

advancement activities can be completed by video conferencing but not all. For example, virtual visits to a city council meeting, national historic landmarks, museums, and art galleries may be acceptable, but swimming, rifle shooting, and motorboating merit badges cannot be completed virtually.

Even when using video conferencing, all virtual campouts and activities should consist of as many elements found on a normal outdoor campout or activity as possible. The most significant difference is that patrol or troop members are not all in the same location. All existing youth protection policies and digital safety guidelines must be followed.

### **Tenderfoot rank requirements**

1b. – Virtual patrol or troop campouts via video conferencing will be permitted.

2a. – During the same day as your virtual patrol or troop campout, assist in preparing one meal with the help of those with whom you live. Tell your patrol or troop why it was important for each person to share in meal preparation and cleanup.

2b. – During the same day as your virtual campout, demonstrate the appropriate method of safely cleaning items used to prepare, serve and eat a meal.

5a. – Explain the importance of the buddy system as it relates to your personal safety on outings and in your neighborhood. Verbally commit to following the buddy system on your next troop or patrol outing.

7a. – Tell how to display, raise, lower, and fold the U.S. flag.

### **Second Class rank requirements:**

1a & 1c. – Virtual patrol or troop activities via video conferencing will be permitted.

3b. – Using a compass and map together, **plan** a 5-mile hike approved by your adult leader.

4. – Evidence of wild animals can be demonstrated with information or photos of your local area found online.

5c. – May be completed virtually via video conferencing on dry land.

7c. – Learn about the dangers of using drugs, alcohol and tobacco and other practices that could be harmful to your health. Discuss what you learned with your family and explain the dangers of substance addictions. Report to your Scoutmaster or other adult leader in your troop about which parts of the Scout Oath and Scout Law relate to what you learned.

8a. – May be completed virtually using video conferencing.

8d. – May be completed by comparing costs at three (3) online sites or locations.

**First Class rank requirements:**

1a – Virtual patrol or troop activities via video conferencing will be permitted.

2e. – On the same day as your virtual campout, serve as the cook. Supervise your assistant(s) in using a stove or building a cooking fire. Prepare the breakfast, lunch, and dinner planned in First Class requirement 2a. Supervise the cleanup.

4a. – By drawing, computer software, or other virtual methods, plan an orienteering course that would cover at least one mile. Explain why measuring the height and/or width of designated items (tree, tower, canyon, ditch, etc.) is helpful. Explain how you would complete your course using a real map and compass.

4b. – Scouts do not need to follow their route.

5a. – Evidence of native plants can be demonstrated with information or photos of your local area found online.

6e. – May be completed on dry land.

9a. – Visit may take place virtually or by phone.

9c. – Outings can include past or future plans.

10. – Invite the potential new member to a **virtual meeting or future activity using video conferencing.**

**♦ Q: Will virtual camping count toward Order of the Arrow nights camping?**

No, virtual camping will not count toward the 15 nights camping required for membership in the Order of the Arrow.



**◆ Q: Can merit badge requirements be adapted since some elements can't be completed as stated right now?**

The published guidelines for the methodology of the merit badge program and the role of the merit badge counselor is found in the Guide to Advancement, Section 7.0.0.0. It is important to remember that leaders and merit badge counselors must not make additions or deletions to requirements. The Scout is expected to meet the requirements as stated; however, in some cases, virtual "visits" may fulfill the intent of a requirement. When the requirement's intent cannot be reached virtually, the requirements cannot be completed, and the Scout must wait to complete that badge/requirement. Merit badge counselors signing off on requirements must determine to the best of their ability if the Scout has demonstrated the intended outcome.

All existing youth protection policies and digital safety guidelines must be followed.

**◆ Q: Does a Scout need a hard copy of a Blue Card when working on merit badges?**

No. Since the introduction of Scoutbook, the BSA has offered Scouts two ways of recording merit badge requirement completion: The Blue Card and Scoutbook. Both remain authorized methods to record merit badge work. Scoutbook is a part of the BSA Internet Advancement system, which means that entering an advancement record in Scoutbook is the same as entering it in Internet Advancement. Anyone with a BSA member ID automatically has access to a Scoutbook account through their my.scouting account.

**Q: May time missed due to canceled unit meetings count toward active participation requirements?**

Yes. If youth are registered and in good standing, a disruption from COVID-19 virus can be the "noteworthy circumstance" that prevents participation. This policy has been in place for many years and is explained in GTA Topic 4.2.3.1.

**Q: May time missed due to canceled unit meetings count toward position of responsibility requirements?**

Yes. If youth are registered and unable to meet the expectations of their positions because of COVID-19 disruptions, then units may need to waive or rethink the expectations. Just as youth must not be held to *unestablished* expectations, they must not be held to expectations that are impossible to fulfill. See GTA Topic 4.2.3.4, "Positions of Responsibility," with its six subtopics.

**Q: Does the National Council grant extensions of time to complete rank requirements beyond the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday for the Eagle or 21<sup>st</sup> birthday for Summit or Quartermaster?**

Yes, but only for the Eagle Scout rank as described in GTA Topic 9.0.4.0 or for Venturing Summit or Sea Scout Quartermaster as described in GTA Topic 4.3.3.0. Unit leadership must become familiar with the five tests under 9.0.4.0. The tests were designed to accommodate such obstacles as those presented by COVID-19 disruptions.

**Q: Will youth who are not yet Life Scouts be allowed to apply for an extension to earn the Eagle Scout rank?**

Extensions are considered only for Scouts who are Life rank. If, once a Scout achieves Life rank, it turns out that COVID-19 disruptions along the way have left them with insufficient time to complete Eagle requirements, then this may be cited when the time comes to submit an extension request.

**Q: May local councils grant extensions?**

**Mayflower Council is granting extensions for Eagle Scout, Summit Award, and Quartermaster. Please look at the information at the following link:**

<https://www.mayflowerbsa.org/petitioning-advancements/>

Normally, that is not allowed. However, due to the current situation—effective immediately and through September 30, 2020—council Scout executives may grant extensions, or delegate authority to the Council Advancement Committee to grant extensions under the following limitations:

1. It can be established that COVID-19 disruptions were the only circumstances that delayed work on Eagle Scout/Summit/Quartermaster advancement requirements, such as the service project or merit badges. If any other causes were involved, the extension request must go to the National Council following the process outlined in the GTA.
2. Extensions shall only be granted to youth in Scouts BSA who have already achieved Life rank.
3. When the council receives a COVID-19-related request for a time extension, the council reviews the request and approves it if appropriate. A written response stating the outcome of the extension request must go to the youth. If approved, the notification must be attached to the youth's Eagle/Summit/Quartermaster rank application. For Eagle, the extension must not exceed 3 months from the youth's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday; for Summit/Quartermaster, the extension must not exceed 3 months from the youth's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.
4. Upon turning 18, the Scout must submit a completed adult application and successfully complete YPT; their participant code will now be UP for SBSA or VP for Venturing and Sea Scouting.
5. Extension requests for more than 3 months beyond the youth's 18<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> birthday must be sent to the National Service Center following the process outlined in the GTA.

Note: A “month” in BSA advancement is defined as a day from one month to the next. For example, March 5 to April 5.

**Q: If youth have already received an extension, can they request additional time due to COVID-19?**

Yes. Council Scout executives may grant extensions, or delegate authority to the Council Advancement Committee to grant extensions under the limitations listed above.

**Q: What should be done while an extension request is being considered?**

Youth should continue to work on advancement in so far as they are able—e.g., independently, or over the phone or videoconference—and at Scouting activities once they resume.

**Q: Are extensions required when an Eagle/Summit/Quartermaster board of review must be delayed?**

No. Councils may grant Eagle/Summit/Quartermaster boards of review up to six months after the youth’s 18<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> birthday. See GTA Topic 8.0.3.1, “Eagle Scout Board of Review Beyond the 18th Birthday.”

See also, GTA Topic 8.0.1.6, “Boards of Review Through Videoconferencing.”

**Q: Are electronic or digital signatures acceptable for rank advancement or for the Eagle/Summit/Quartermaster packets/applications?**

Yes. Electronic or digital signatures will be accepted through September 30, 2020.

**Q: How can a youth continue to work on advancement requirements if they don’t have internet or high-speed internet for videoconferencing?**

Youth may take a picture of their completed activity/requirement and share the work with unit leaders. In

keeping with youth protection policies, all communications from youth should be sent to at least two adults. See our Barriers to Abuse for details. Parents or guardians may send advancement work on be

Source for this information:  
[https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus/covid-19-faq/?utm\\_source=scoutingwire&utm\\_campaign=swvolunteer4152020&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=](https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus/covid-19-faq/?utm_source=scoutingwire&utm_campaign=swvolunteer4152020&utm_medium=email&utm_content=)