

Counselor Scheduling Options for Virtual Merit Badges

*** Note: The following options should be taken into consideration when teaching online or communicating with scouts. Please also adhere to any of your local council instructions and guidelines as well.

Virtual Merit Badges leaves one with several options that can utilize several platforms to help Scouts in doing their merit badge work. It is important to remember these important points always as we move forward into uncharted waters:

- Scouts' Safety First Always by practicing [Scouting Barriers to Abuse](#), Youth Protection and Social Media Guidelines!
- NEVER be one-on-one with a Scout on any platform you use. There MUST be another adult, either a parent, leader or another counselor. It is best NOT to use a counselor's family member for Two Deep Leadership. For the safety of all
- Emails must have a second adult. If the Scout does not add one, add in another scouter as your second adult in all email correspondences. Promptly remind the scout to add his/her parent or scout leader in future emails.
- Merit Badge work must be done 'as stated' especially for the action words of discuss, tell, show, or demonstrate, etc.
- There must be attention to each individual's projects and fulfillment of *all* requirements. We must know that every Scout—actually and *personally*—completed them.
- Consider this is new to many Scouts, so expect giggles at seeing others so close, lateness due to figuring out connectivity and more. There may be weak internet connections that unexpectedly disconnect Scouts.
- Scouts will come from all over the USA and maybe from other countries. (International Scouting has a group of Lone Scouts because of our military or business sectors that seek their advancements on the virtual platform.)

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