

# Navigating Virtual Girl Scouts

## *Fast Fundamentals*



### Overview

As Girl Scouts, we live by the motto “be prepared” - and that includes when the unexpected happens. For every adventure that can be done in-person, there is another that can be shared, taught, and experienced virtually. Adult volunteers will find it exciting and challenging to bring new experiences to girls through video troop meetings. Whether it be community service projects, outdoor adventures, cookie sales, or badge work – there is a way for Girl Scouts to meet girls where they are and keep them connected.

### Virtual

Holding virtual troop meetings creates an array of exciting opportunities to deliver a powerful Girl Scout experience into the lives of girls, and while still incorporating Girl Scout traditions. Bring the exploration, fun and learning of Girl Scouts to families to meet girls where they are and keep them connected.

### Blended

Leaders and girls can leverage online meetings to provide flexibility for connecting, planning and starting a badge/activity with each other. This can be followed up by in person get-togethers for fun and learning experiences, when possible

### Pearl of Wisdom

**GSUSA Calendar of virtual events happening around the country in different councils.**



[girlscouts.org/activityzone](https://girlscouts.org/activityzone)> Virtual Event Calendar

**Do you know we have over 150 videos on our YouTube page that you can utilize to have a blended Girl Scout experience?**



[youtube.com/girlscoutswoh](https://youtube.com/girlscoutswoh)

**GSWO’s website under Events you can find virtual events listed under zip code 45242.**



[gswow.org/events](https://gswow.org/events)

## Activity 1: VTK

### Instructions:

Using the sample agenda below, discuss what actions you will need to take to successfully modify having your meeting in a virtual or blended space.

1. Welcome (5 minutes)	2. Ground Rules (5 minutes)	3. Promise & Law (5 minutes)	4. Icebreaker (10 minutes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give girls a few minutes to join the meeting and get settled.</li> <li>• Encourage the girls to take this time to chat with each other before the official meeting begins.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the ground rules or use this time to create list together.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recite the Promise and Law together. Ask girls to keep themselves muted as they follow your lead. Internet connectivity issues can cause a lag in audio, which can be discouraging and frustrating for the girls when they aren't hearing themselves in unison.</li> <li>• You can encourage girls to have their cameras on, but it shouldn't be required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add an icebreaker activity to help everyone get comfortable.</li> <li>• Use the same icebreaker at each meeting or try different ones—it's entirely up to you!</li> </ul>
5. Main Activity (20 minutes)	6. Prep for Your Next Meeting (5 minutes)	7. Closing Ceremony (5 minutes)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether it's badge work or just something fun, the main activity should take up the bulk of your meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If not, give them a sense of what to expect for the next meeting.</li> <li>• If the girls will complete an activity on their own, set them up for success and explain what they'll need.</li> <li>• Looking for feedback on what to do next? This is a great time to poll the girls!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wind down your meeting by singing "Make New Friends" and participating in Friendship Squeeze.</li> <li>• Just as you would with an in-person meeting, ask them to cross their arms and give them a moment to squeeze their own hand (by making a fist) to virtually pass on the squeeze. Say the girl's name you are passing the squeeze to. Once you receive the squeeze, thank the person you received it from.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Then, on the count of three, instruct the girls to lift their arms over their heads to virtually "twist out" to close the meeting.</li> <li>• Make sure while singing girls are muted.</li> </ul>

## Activity 2: Program Videos

### Outdoor Art Creator:

Find out how you can make your own art outdoors and have fun doing it!

- **Step 1:** Find art ideas outdoors
  - **Step 2:** Make something!
  - **Step 3:** Dance or make music outdoors
  - **Step 4:** Be a nature photographer
  - **Step 5:** Design with nature
1. Watch Outdoor Art Creator video
  2. Divide into two groups
  3. Group 1: Discuss how to complete Step 3 in a hybrid/blended learning experience.
  4. Group 2: Discuss how to complete Step 4 in an all virtual learning experience.



### Brownie Outdoor Art Creator Badge

(Grades 2-3)

**YouTube Link:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGRj0ZIPP\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGRj0ZIPP_s)



## Activity 3: Virtual Game/Icebreaker

### Instructions:

Discuss the tips below and participate in the What's that Sound Icebreaker.

- **Set ground rules.** Share guidelines about the icebreaker before you start: how much time will you spend on the icebreaker activity, and how much time will each girl have to speak? You can set boundaries by time (“Everyone will have one minute to answer.”) or length (“Everyone should answer in three sentences or less.”) Remind the girls to give everyone a chance to participate by not interrupting one another and muting their microphones when they’re not speaking.
- **Don’t make icebreakers mandatory.** Remember, not every girl will want to speak or answer every question. Encourage them to participate, but don’t force them to if they aren’t comfortable.
- **Don’t interrupt.** Aside from the time limits they agreed to, let the girls speak and give them space to fully participate in the icebreaker. Remember, they are not just expressing themselves to their Girl Scout sisters; they’re also building their comfort with virtual meeting tools, and they need the space to do that.
- **Be comfortable with silence.** It’s natural to want to fill any quiet moments during an activity but remember that the girls may need time to think about the question, and will speak up when they are ready. Filling the silence for them may discourage them from jumping in when they are ready to share.
- **Keep parents or caregivers in the loop.** If you’re using an icebreaker that involves the girls showing items in their home, let families know in advance so they can plan accordingly—they’ll appreciate it!
- **Consider uniquely virtual icebreakers.** Showing off a favorite routine or a favorite room in their home is something you couldn’t do with your girls during an in-person meeting. Embrace it! Take this time to explore new ways of getting to know your girls that wouldn’t be open to you during a regular meeting.
- **Keep an eye on their involvement.** Some girls will jump right into virtual meetings- but some may not. Watch closely for signs that girls are losing interest or having trouble participating and try to gently pull them into the fold. If the issue continues, ask their parent or caregiver about ways to better engage them during meetings, and possibly address other challenges the girls may be facing outside of Girl Scouts.
- **Icebreaker:** What’s that Sound
  - Here are some links to sounds that people can guess.
  - Make sure to share your volume so everyone can hear it.
  - Have them guess the sound they are hearing.
  - **Guess that Sound:**  
[https://youtu.be/\\_f4bLbFyleo](https://youtu.be/_f4bLbFyleo)
  - **Guess that Sound Animal Edition:**  
<https://youtu.be/Qd6wZHUUCUg>
  - **Guess that Sound A- Z Edition:**  
[https://youtu.be/AEU0rbO\\_lkk](https://youtu.be/AEU0rbO_lkk)

## S'more Info

<b>Girl Scouts of Western Ohio - Girl Scouts at Home</b>		<b>Girl Scouts USA - How I Make Virtual Meetings Work for My Troop</b>
 <a href="https://gswo.org/athome">gswo.org/athome</a>		 <a href="https://girlscouts.org &gt; Tips for Troop Leaders &gt; Program Success &gt; How I Make Virtual Meetings Work for My Troop">girlscouts.org &gt; Tips for Troop Leaders &gt; Program Success &gt; How I Make Virtual Meetings Work for My Troop</a>
<b>Girl Scouts of Western Ohio - Hosting Virtual Troop/Group Meetings</b>	<b>GSWO Event Planning Guide</b>	<b>Girl Scouts USA - Girl Scout Activity Zone</b>
 <a href="https://gswo.org/athome &gt; Hosting Virtual Troop-Group Meetings">gswo.org/athome &gt; Hosting Virtual Troop-Group Meetings</a>	 <a href="https://gswo.org/suformsanddocs &gt; Event Planning Guide">gswo.org/suformsanddocs &gt; Event Planning Guide</a>	 <a href="https://girlscouts.org/activityzone">girlscouts.org/activityzone</a>



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