

The following are guidelines for participating in virtual merit badge sessions in lieu of personal face-to-face instruction due to special circumstances. Each circumstance should be considered by the Council Advancement Committee and unit leader.

As a Scout:

- I agree that in order for me to begin a merit badge in a virtual setting, I must request and obtain my unit leaders permission.
- I agree that I will only work and connect with merit badge counselor virtually with my parents permission.
- I agree that I will complete, and present proof thereof, the Cyber Chip appropriate to my age. (<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/cyber-chip/>)
- I agree that when communicating with my virtual merit badge counselor I will **ALWAYS** ensure that at least one other adult is present in those communications, whether it be via video conference, email, text, phone call or any other form not specifically listed here.
- I promise that I will actually and personally complete each project and fulfill all requirements for the merit badges that I request instruction and counseling in a virtual setting.
- I understand that if a requirement uses words like “show,” “demonstrate,” or “discuss,” I agree that I must be prepared to exhibit those requirements through the use of electronic or digital technology. If I am unable to do such, I must wait until such a time as I can present those requirements to the merit badge counselor or my unit leader in person.
- I promise that I will not abuse the privilege that I have been given to conduct a merit badge in a virtual setting. I will not bully, or otherwise disparage, any scout that may be in a virtual setting with me, and understand that if I do so this privilege may be revoked and I may not be allowed to continue in this setting.

As a Parent:

- I agree to allow my scout to engage with youth and adults in a virtual setting while working on a virtual merit badge.
- I understand that my Scout will be required to interact and communicate with an adult in virtual setting and that I will monitor such interaction as necessary to ensure the safety of all individuals involved in those activities.
- I agree to ensure that my scout actually and personally completes all projects and requirements for the merit badges which are requested to be performed in a virtual setting.
- I agree that upon reading the information expressed in this “Virtual Merit Badge Guidelines” and “Important excerpts from the Guide To Advancement - 2019, No. 33088”, that I will communicate that both I and my scout agree to follow these guidelines through email with the merit badge counselor and my scout’s unit leader.