

TROOP LEADER TIPS

COVID-19 Reopening – Phase 1

All Phase 1 guidelines at girlscoutsaz.org/covid-19#reopening

Meeting in person is always at the discretion of the Troop Leader and troop parents/guardians.

- » We encourage you to make sure everyone in your troop has access to the meeting regardless of comfort level. This may mean meeting virtually until everyone in the troop is comfortable meeting in person. Also keep digital access in mind if you meet virtually, not everyone always has access to internet/computer.

If you're considering meeting in person, here are some recommended steps:

- » Have private conversations with the parent/guardians of your troop's members.
 - Ask about their level of comfort for in-person meetings
 - Discuss what meeting in person would look like, including precautions that would be put in place and expectation of supplies girls would need to bring (i.e. masks)
- » Sample questions to ask parents
 - Are you comfortable meeting in person (with all recommended guidelines in place)?
 - Indoors?
 - Outdoors?
 - Prefer to stay virtual?
 - If no, why? Anything work arounds you are comfortable with?
 - Are there any accommodations that you or your girl need?
 - Are you willing to help with the need for additional adults? (If so, are you registered, and background checked, or willing to be?)
 - Do you know of a place that we can meet indoors (such as a small business connection?)

If the troop decides to start meeting in person:

- » Hold a parent meeting virtually to discuss what in-person meetings will look like and who is going to help.
- » Start with something "just for fun" or socializing to start.
- » Meeting models to consider (especially if your troop is larger than 10 people)
 - Blended – part of troop joins on Zoom, and part joins in person. At the next meeting, rotate who is in person/virtual. While everyone has the same supplies and is working on the same project. Have an additional adult leading the Zoom group to ensure they're still "engaged" and part of the meeting.
 - Outdoors – Break troop into smaller groups. Get additional adults to attend to maintain ratio and social distancing. Mix groups up each meeting. Use the [outdoor icon in the VTK](#) to help choose badges that are easily adapted to outdoor settings.
 - Buddy Troops – Partner with other troops the same level as yours and take turns planning/running meetings (alternate months). This could also be done within the troop, with more parents helping out.

If you're meeting virtually

- » Take the [Zoom trainings offered in gsLearn](#), as well as the [Virtual Tips and Tricks workshops](#) offered
- » Consider purchasing a [troop Zoom license through Council](#)
- » Start with something "just for fun" or social to start
- » Think of badges that require less face-in-screen, like cooking badges. Yoga is also a popular one. Check out [Virtual-GS](#), [Badge Explorer](#) and [VTK](#) for more inspo.

Still have questions? Reach out to volunteerlearning@girlscoutsaz.org or your MSE. We're here to help!