

## Addendum to Parents' Handbook - T452 and T2452

### Topic: Special Provisions and Overrides to the Troop Programs and Requirements

#### Background:

In 2020, the world, nations and our communities have experienced sustained spreading of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. Much of the efforts to prevent further spreading of the virus depends on “**social distancing**”, the separation of individuals at least several feet apart in any settings, as well as avoiding any and all large-group gatherings.

The needs for “social distancing” put a unique challenge for the continuation and the success of BSA scouting programs. Much of the scouting programs are tied to close interactions between members of the scouting communities such as:

- Regular troop and patrol meetings run by scouts
- Regular committee meetings run by parents
- Other regular meetings like PLC, SMC, BOR and COH
- The achievement of NHPA depends on whether the regular meeting mentioned above are conducted in a timely matter
- SMC's for scouts First Class and below are traditionally done in out-door settings (like a troop or patrol camp-out)
- Other examples like these

#### Goals for the Special Provisions and Overrides

The special provisions and overrides detailed here are to help our scouts and their parents continue to enjoy and grow in scouting, and to not be sidetracked or idled by the effect of social distancing,

#### Prevailing Restrictions from Government Bodies and School Districts

Any and all of the provisions and the overrides, as well as any of the troop requirements and programs, must abide by the **latest** recommendations and/or guidelines from the government bodies like CDC or County health departments, as well as those from school districts (Fremont Union and Cupertino Union). The recommendations and guidelines are such as (but not restricted to):

- Anyone who should excuse himself/herself from attending any scouting events
- How much distance to be kept between participants in scouting events
- The maximum size limit on any gathering
- And others like these

## **A Proposal for the Online Meeting Protocol (OMP)**

1. All online meetings should have at least 2 registered adults leaders (RAL) from the beginning to the end. Once 2 or more RALs have come online to the meeting, scouts can join the meeting. This applies to every type of troop or patrol meeting (PLC, BOR, SMC, etc.)
2. At anytime, if the RALs need 'aside time', e.g., discussion amongst the adults after a SMC, the RALs could pause the meeting and conduct a separate phone conference between the adults (be sure to mute microphone for the online meeting) while the scouts wait for the duration. Then once the RALs are done with their internal discussion, the online meeting can resume.
3. At the end of an online meeting, all the participating scouts should log off first, and then the RALs. At any time, there should always be at least 2 RALs in the online meeting as long as the online meeting is in session.
4. All uniform requirements (down to the socks) are still in effect for both the scouts and the adults who are supposed to be in uniform. For the RALs who are not required to be in uniforms, they must dress as if they are attending regular meetings in person, i.e., no pajamas, etc.
5. All online meeting etiquette should be observed. For example, mute the microphone when not speaking. Minimize any background noise to avoid distraction. Speak clearly and at a good speed so as to be comprehensible for other online audiences.
6. At all times, all participants' videos must be shared. No participants may join a scout-oriented meeting with a shut-off camera. Anyone who does not share the video will automatically be asked to leave the meeting.
7. Additional precautions to be aware of to avoid being 'Zoombombed':
  - Establish ground rules in email
    - Users should NOT share invitation outside Unit
    - Apply YPT rules like face-to-face meeting
    - Practice Scout Law during meeting
    - No Recording (YPT)
    - Uniforming
  - Do NOT publish meeting invitation in public
  - Pre-configuration is key
    - Don't allow meeting to start before Host
    - Don't allow users to take over screen sharing
    - Do configure to disallow banned users from rejoining
    - Do provide a password to join a meeting
  - During meeting
    - Pay attention & be ready to ban misbehaving users
    - No Recording
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## **A Proposal to Allow Scouting Activities to be Conducted Online**

The following BSA scouting activities can be conducted online if the scouts, the scouts' parents or participating RALs desire to do so. The specific protocols of conducting these BSA-related activities are subjected to the rules and regulations by BSA, the Troop's Scout Master, and the Senior Patrol Leader' guidelines and permissions.

- Scout Master Conference
- Board of Review
- Eagle Project Review
- Eagle Application Sign-Off
- Signing of Requirements for Scout Ranking Purpose
- Merit Badge Counseling and Sign-off
- Troop Meetings
- Patrol Meetings
- Patrol Leader Councils
- Mid-Term Review and Annual Planning
- Troop ILST

### **Web Conference Resources**

Please contact your Scout Master and/or Committee Chair for Zoom (or another web conference vendor) paid account to schedule online meetings