

Hello Troop 888 scouts,

Hope all of you are staying healthy and safe. First of all, I am so proud of our Troop in how we are staying engaged with scouting and using scouting skills, helping your family at home and learning new things during this period. Secondly, I am extremely thankful to all the parents and adult leaders for taking the time out of their schedule to support our scouts by teaching merit badges, mentoring the scouts, attending virtual meetings, and being available to answer questions. Special thanks to the Eagle advisors for guiding the Eagle-bound scouts without blinking an eye and diligently driving them towards their end goal.

In light of the current situation and not knowing for sure when the shelter-in-place will be lifted, we are shifting gears towards how we can continue to meet, advance and achieve in the world of scouting. We will continue to send out these updates, so kindly stay tuned.

News from the council:



→ Online Merit Badge Courses

- ◆ MDSC has been offering over 25 online iBadge Merit Badge Courses. Click [HERE](#) to sign up for online merit badges earned while you shelter in place. Be quick, there are a limited number of badges being offered and places go fast!
- ◆ We need your HELP! We desperately need more Merit Badges Counselors to teach online classes. The council will do all the work to set up Registration and to set up the Zoom meetings. If you think you can help, contact [Joe Barton](#) or [Rand Mahoney](#).

→ Website

- ◆ We keep putting up [lots of great information](#) on the [MDSC](#) on “[Scouting from home](#)”, exciting opportunities, shared ideas, etc. We also have a [Take a Hike Challenge](#) on Sunday, May 3rd. The website changes frequently with information we get from our National office and the many scout councils around the country so check our website every 2-3 days. Check out the new BSA video on the [home page](#)! It is very inspirational!

→ BSA National Camp-In – Sat., May 2, starting at 8 a.m.

- ◆ Join us for a day of adventure for ALL Scouts and ALL Families! From friendly competitions to campfire singalongs, this virtual event will bring the best parts of Scouting to life with activities all can enjoy from their living room or backyard. This event is open to all families, so invite your friends, neighbors, and colleagues to join the fun! [More info...](#)

→ Meridian Scouting Exchange – Th 5/14

- ◆ The monthly Roundtable has been replaced with the quarterly Meridian Scouting Exchange. Scheduled for Thurs., 5/14 7-9 p.m. as a Zoom video conference. [LEARN MORE](#)

Troop News:

→ **Troop T-shirt Design Contest:** [Click Here](#)

→ **Advancement process:**

- ◆ **IMPORTANT:** As always, You must have the requirements signed off for the rank before requesting a review.
- ◆ If you are advancing towards Scout Rank and have your requirements initialed by your New Scout Patrol leader, email the scoutmaster [here](#) for an SM conference.
- ◆ If you are advancing towards Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, or Star and have completed the requirements, email your request to the Troop 888 ASMs at asm@troop888@troopmaster.email. One of the ASMs will respond back to you and you can schedule a time for the review.
- ◆ If you are advancing towards Life Rank, email the scoutmaster [here](#) for an SM conference.
- ◆ Once your ASM review is complete, email the scoutmaster [here](#) for an SM conference.
- ◆ Once the SM conference is complete, the BOR Chairs will arrange for a virtual Board of Review.

→ **PATROL meetings:**

- ◆ During the PLC meeting, all the patrol leaders have agreed to conduct virtual patrol meetings with the members of their patrol to help answer questions about advancement, practice new skills and review skills already learned. **Scouts**, follow up with your patrol leader about these meetings.

→ **Two-deep leadership & Chain of command:**

- ◆ Parents & Adult leaders: Please make sure your Youth Protection Training is up-to-date [here](#). At least 2 parents/adult leaders **MUST** be on every call/virtual meeting.
- ◆ Scouts, please follow chain of command and two-deep leadership for all your communication: PL -> Troop Guide -> ASPL -> SPL -> ASM -> SM, in that order.

→ **Scoutmaster Office Hours:**

- ◆ I will also have office hours available every week. What this means is you can contact me for anything during those times, or set up a video chat if you need one. To start with, I'm planning to have office hours on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 - 7 pm PST.

A message from your SPL:

Hey scouts! I hope you're having a great weekend. I know it's hard being away from friends and school (yes, school), believe me I KNOW. However, there are some great ways to stay active and not lose contact with your friends! I know most of us have phones, but if you don't, there is always an alternative. I personally use Houseparty, Discord, and Skype to stay connected. These 3 are very useful for me, and I'm sure at least one of them can be useful for you too! Other than talking with friends, there are many things in terms of scouting that YOU can do to stay active. Have you submitted your entry for the T-shirt competition yet?

I can't wait to see some knot masters among you! I'm also waiting to see some fun ways to engage with nature say, spending the night in your own backyard? Perhaps even find a stick in your backyard and start whittling (Make sure you have your Totin' Chip)! Maybe sign up for some fun online merit badges like Genealogy, Safety and Programming? I have completed a few; I had so much fun building a model plane for Aviation.

I have attached two guides for Zoom, on how to join a meeting and how to create and share your own meeting for those that need help with Zoom meetings.

I hope you can stay as happy as I am now. Be safe, stay connected, and have fun Scouting.

Take care,

Tejas Dhilip

P.S. Please don't forget to tie your laces.

Any questions, thoughts or comments? Email us [here](#).

STAY SAFE. STAY HOME. SCOUT ON

Yours in Scouting,

Shanthi Subramanian.