

Troop 90's procedures for rank requirements virtual sign-offs

Scouting BSA Changes

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Scouting BSA has implemented temporary changes, detailed below, to allow Scouts to complete rank requirements, detailed below, by video conferencing through September 1, 2020. This deadline will be re-evaluated as needed.

The goal when using video conferencing must be to preserve the ideals and intent of each requirement as best as possible. Scoutmasters or their designee(s) should remain mindful of the Methods of Scouting, such as the Patrol Method, before implementing the modified requirements listed below. Some advancement activities can be completed by video conferencing but not all. For example, virtual visits to a city council meeting, national historic landmarks, museums, and art galleries may be acceptable, but swimming, rifle shooting, and motorboating merit badges cannot be completed virtually.

Even when using video conferencing, all virtual campouts and activities should consist of as many elements found on a normal outdoor campout or activity as possible. The most significant difference is that patrol or troop members are not all in the same location. All existing youth protection policies and digital safety guidelines must be followed.

Tenderfoot rank requirements

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- 1b. – Virtual patrol or troop campouts via video conferencing will be permitted.
- 2a. – During the same day as your virtual patrol or troop campout, assist in preparing one meal with the help of those with whom you live. Tell your patrol or troop why it was important for each person to share in meal preparation and cleanup.
- 2b. – During the same day as your virtual campout, demonstrate the appropriate method of safely cleaning items used to prepare, serve and eat a meal.
- 5a. – Explain the importance of the buddy system as it relates to your personal safety on outings and in your neighborhood. Verbally commit to following the buddy system on your next troop or patrol outing.
- 7a. – Tell how to display, raise, lower, and fold the U.S. flag.

Second Class rank requirements

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- 1a & 1c. – Virtual patrol or troop activities via video conferencing will be permitted.
- 3b. – Using a compass and map together, plan a 5-mile hike approved by your adult leader.
- 4. – Evidence of wild animals can be demonstrated with information or photos of your local area found online.
- 5c. – May be completed virtually via video conferencing on dry land.
- 7c. – Learn about the dangers of using drugs, alcohol and tobacco and other practices that could be harmful to your health. Discuss what you learned with your family and explain the dangers of substance addictions. Report to your Scoutmaster or other adult leader in your troop about which parts of the Scout Oath and Scout Law relate to what you learned.
- 8a. – May be completed virtually using video conferencing.
- 8d. – May be completed by comparing costs at three (3) online sites or locations.

First Class rank requirements

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- 1a – Virtual patrol or troop activities via video conferencing will be permitted.
- 2e. – On the same day as your virtual campout, serve as the cook. Supervise your assistant(s) in using a stove or building a cooking fire. Prepare the breakfast, lunch, and dinner planned in First Class requirement 2a. Supervise the cleanup.
- 4a. – By drawing, computer software, or other virtual methods, plan an orienteering course that would cover at least one mile. Explain why measuring the height and/or width of designated items (tree, tower, canyon, ditch, etc.) is helpful. Explain how you would complete your course using a real map and compass.

- 4b. – Scouts do not need to follow their route.
- 5a. – Evidence of native plants can be demonstrated with information or photos of your local area found online.
- 6e. – May be completed on dry land.
- 9a. – Visit may take place virtually or by phone.
- 9c. – Outings can include past or future plans.
- 10. – Invite the potential new member to a virtual meeting or future activity using video conferencing.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me (scouts copy your parents on the message!)

Yours in scouting!
Mr. G

Procedures to Follow:

1) Scout must:

- identify a requirement that can be done across LIVE videoconferencing (knowledge, knot tying, etc.) Demonstrations cannot be recorded.
- knows thoroughly requirements to be signed off.
- must have an adult supervising if the scout must use a knife, saw, axe or fire to complete the requirement.
- ensure the requirement can be tested in no more than 20 minutes.

2) Scout signs up to have the requirement scheduled for review by using the SignOff button on the front page of the Troop 90 website (<http://www.mytroop90.org>).

- scout must enter Scout First Name (no Last Names), Patrol Name, Scout Age and Rank & Requirement To Be Signed Off.

3) NYLT scouts must review weekly the Google Doc spreadsheet (link to be provided by the SPL.) NYLT scout enters their name next to the scout request in the column "NYLT Scout".

4) If NYLT scout is older than two years of a scout seeking a sign-off, another scout must be present and visible on either end of the call. If NYLT scout is within two years of age of the scout seeking a sign-off, the videoconference can be one-to-one.

5) NYLT Scout contacts the Scout through Scoutbook.

6) If the NYLT Scout approves and certifies that the scout has completed the requirement, the NYLT scout reports the completion on the Google Doc spreadsheet by entering the date completed.

7) No observers should attend any board of review/scoutmaster conference/rank requirement sign-off as their presence can change the discussion dynamics. The only exception is for safety - i.e., a parent is required to attend if a sign-off requires a fire, axe or knife demonstration.

8) ASPLs each week must:

- Print out spreadsheet to maintain a physical record.
- Report to the SPL which NYLT scouts are performing the sign-offs to ensure that the NYLT scouts are being used evenly and are not being overtasked.

9) When the Troop meets in person next, official book signings will occur.