**Troop 35 Virtual Scouting**

This week, we’re kicking off a virtual Scouting program with plans to grow it in coming weeks.

Our goal is two-fold:

1. To keep our Scouts connected with each other and to the T35 community; and
2. To provide engaging Scouting activities until we can be together again in person.

Our plan includes individual and group badge work, advancement for our newest Scouts to Scout rank, and opportunities for Scouts to hang out online as a patrol and in safe, online games. We are open to other ideas on ways to connect our Scouts virtually.

We will be posting this information on <https://mdtroop35.trooptrack.com/>.

**A few guidelines:**

* This is optional, though we encourage all Scouts to participate.
* **All BSA Youth Protection rules apply online**. Two-deep leadership will be practiced to any interaction between an adult and Scout. For example, if your son is on a conference call or FaceTime with an Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM) for counseling, a parent or another Scout leader MUST be on the call.
* Parents may not counsel their son on a badge.
* We will be recording all badge work online and will complete the physical Blue Card for the Scout at a later date.
* With the exception of the continuation of the existing class for Citizenship in the World, all Merit Badge (MB) programs below are open to ANY Scout in Troop 35, new and older members.

We are using Webex for online seminars. Thank you, ASM Pitts, for making this possible!

See FAQs below for specific questions.

**CONNECTING SCOUTS AS A COMMUNITY**

In the next few days, each Assistant Patrol Leader (ASPL) will be reaching out to his Patrol to set up a video Webex session just to talk. Each Patrol will determine how often they will meet virtually.

We also are rolling out online games with private T35 “rooms” (meaning that no one outside of T35 may play). Scouts may log in and play with each other as another way of staying connected as a Troop community. Encourage Scouts to do other online games, such as Words with Friends, as another way to connect.

NOTE: BSA rules state that any digital gathering of Scouts under 18 does not require two-deep adult leadership. Our expectations of Scout behavior on these calls and in the games is as it is for any T35 activity: kindness, respect, civility, trust, leadership, etc.

**VIRTUAL BADGES OFFERED THIS WEEK:**

**Hiking MB** with Dr. Edwards and ASM Pitts: Saturday, March 28, 10 AM

Click on the link below to join the session:

WebEx meeting:

<https://umaryland.webex.com/umaryland/j.php?MTID=m6bbfdffde92d0ce3f6966a4cde1512ae>

No download is necessary. Click on the link and click “Join Meeting.” If you don’t choose “Join Meeting,” you will not be in the meeting. The meeting does sound better with a headset/mic. Mute your mic when not asking a question.

[Merit Badge Book](https://app.box.com/s/jo908kowy0c5pvrxt6wjm5yxd03z8fgs)

[Hiking Merit Badge Worksheet](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/Hiking.pdf) – PLEASE print prior to the online meeting.

**Citizenship in the World MB** with Dr. Windisch and ASM Bassford, Saturday, March 28, 2 PM and 2:45 PM. This is an existing class that was meeting pre-social distancing.

Click on the link below to join the session. No download is necessary. Click on the link and click “Join Meeting.” If you don’t choose “Join Meeting,” you will not be in the meeting. The meeting does sound better with a headset/mic. Mute your mic when not asking a question.

WebEx meeting:

<https://umaryland.webex.com/umaryland/j.php?MTID=mb81fd1641a6c45e1ada61b7ca6ffe706>

[Merit Badge Book](https://media.trooptrack.com/uploads/Citizenship_in_the_World_Merit_Badge_Pamphlet.pdf)

[2020 Requirements](https://www.scoutbook.com/mobile/references/boy-scouting/merit-badges/citizenship-in-the-world-merit-badge-requirements.asp)

For Scouts interested in starting the Citizenship in the World MB, email Dr. Windisch at wwindisch@comcast.net and copy ASM Bassford at chuck.bassford@gmail.com.

**Reading MB** with Blake Li

[Merit Badge Book](https://app.box.com/s/jo908kowy0c5pvrxt6wjm5yxd03z8fgs)

[2020 Requirements](https://www.scoutbook.com/mobile/references/boy-scouting/merit-badges/reading-merit-badge-requirements.asp)

[Merit Badge Worksheet](http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Reading.pdf) – PLEASE print

This will be done independently by the Scout with each Scout arranging a counseling session with Mr. Li and their parent to complete the badge (two-deep leadership). To arrange a session, email Mr. Li at blake\_li@yahoo.com to request a conference call for counseling (be sure to copy another adult on the email).

**STEPS FOR COMPLETING THE VIRTUAL BADGES ABOVE**

1. Read the MB book FIRST. Use the links above or buy any book at Scoutshop.org or on Amazon.
2. Print out the worksheet prior to any virtual meeting.
3. If it is a virtual meeting, log on at the scheduled time with your worksheet and pen ready.
4. Complete the MB requirements, as much as a possible. (For example, Hiking MB requires outside hiking, which may be done in the months ahead when we no longer need to remain inside.)
5. When the Scout is ready for counseling, arrange a time (conference call or video call) to be counseled. There MUST be two adults present at all times during the counseling call.
6. The MB counselor is either the person(s) listed above or refer to the list of Troop 35 MB Counselors (attached).

**WHAT VIRTUAL BADGES ARE NEXT FOR GROUP/INDIVIDUAL WORK? We’re planning on:**

* Bird Study MB with Bob Carroll – a GREAT follow-up to our Zoo trip in the fall!
* Moviemaking MB with Katie Meredith
* Music MB with ASM George Meredith to finish requirements from Holiday Spectacular performances
* Finishing Rifle MB and Shotgun Shooting MB for Scouts who earned them at OV-IV (individual counseling with parent present)

**INDIVIDUAL MB BADGE WORK**

Scouts are welcomed and encouraged to pursue MBs on their own. This is a great time to look at their half-filled Blue Cards and work on completing those badges.

Listed below is a BSA-suggested list of MBs perfect for social distancing (no visits to sites required, etc.).

Steps:

1. Read the MB book FIRST. You can order the book online at Scoutshop.org or on Amazon.
2. Search online for the PDF worksheet and print it out.
3. Complete the MB requirements.
4. When the Scout is ready for counseling, arrange a time (conference call or video call) to be counseled. There MUST be two adults present at all times during the counseling call.
5. The MB counselor is either the person(s) listed above or refer to the list of Troop 35 MB Counselors (PDF attached).
6. **Counseling CANNOT be done via email. Scouts cannot simply email a completed worksheet. They must do a phone or video conference with TWO-DEEP adult participation.**

**ADVANCEMENT FOR NEW TROOP MEMBERS TO SCOUT RANK**

Scoutmaster Carroll and ASM Achenbach will be reaching out via email to those Scouts who are new to T35 and have not year completed the rank of Scout. They will be scheduling a “Scout Rank” class or the group.

No other ranks will have a virtual advancement component at this time. We will create ample opportunity for in-person advancement when we are no longer social distancing.

**FAQs**

Q: Can I counsel my son on a Merit Badge?

A: No, parents cannot counsel their son. Use the list of T35 Merit Badge Counselors LINK to find the counselor for a particular badge.

Q: How does a Scout start a badge?

A: Read the Merit Badge pamphlet first and follow the PDF worksheet. Follow the instructions above.

Q: How does a Scout get a Blue Card for his records of badges completed during this time?

A: We will be keeping online records and will issue physical, signed Blue Cards later this spring or summer for badges completed.

Q: I would like to counsel a badge. How do I do that?

A: Contact Charles Edwards at caedwards20@gmail.com or Sarah Achenbach at sarahachenbach@comcast.net and let them know. You will need to compete the [BSA Youth Protection Training](https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/) (if you haven’t already done so) and the [Merit Badge Counselor Application](https://s3.amazonaws.com/trooptrack-prod/srv/www/trooptrack_web/releases/20161028132234/public/ckeditor_assets/attachments/10557/mb_counselor_application_blank_fillable.pdf). Consider hosting a virtual meeting for aspects of the badge and creating content (videos on a requirement, etc.). We can host videos for the badges as well.

**BSA-APPROVED “SOCIAL DISTANCING” MERIT BADGES**

* American Business
* American Heritage
* Animation
* Art
* Basketry
* Bird Study
* Chemistry
* Chess
* Collections
* Composite Materials
* Cooking
* Digital Technology
* Drafting
* Electricity
* Electronics
* Energy
* Engineering
* Environmental Science
* Fingerprinting
* First Aid
* Game Design
* Genealogy
* Graphic Arts
* Home Repairs
* Leatherworking
* Mammal Study
* Metalwork
* Mining in Society
* Model Design & Building
* Moviemaking
* Music
* Nuclear Science
* Oceanography
* Painting
* Photography
* Plant Science
* Plumbing
* Pottery
* Programming
* Pulp & Paper
* Railroading
* Robotics
* Salesmanship
* Scholarship
* Sculpture
* Search & Rescue
* Soil & Water Conservation
* Space Exploration
* Stamp Collecting
* Sustainability
* Textile
* Theater
* Weather
* Wilderness Survival
* Woodcarving
* Woodwork