Cybersecurity During the COVID-19 Lockdown

During this unprecedented time, we are turning to using videoconferencing more and more to conduct the Scouting program. While electronic technologies make conducting virtual scouting meetings easier, there are some cybersecurity precautions that should be taken.

How to Make Sure You Are Being Safe

Some of these tips are specific to the Zoom Videoconferencing service, but they can all be applied to various services.

- When sharing your screen, disable participant annotation until necessary. If you need to enable it, make sure to turn on the “show annotator names” feature so you know who is commenting.
- When hosting, make sure you know how to turn off participants video and microphone capabilities, as well as remove them from the session, in case someone does or says something inappropriate.
- DO NOT post or share the meeting login information anywhere public, this may allow unintended guests to join the meeting.
- If available, enable the “waiting room” feature, which places people attending the meeting in a hold until the host lets them in.
- When setting up a meeting, make sure to set a meeting password and do not share it anywhere publicly.
- Monitor the chat features and disable private chats between participants.
- When conducting online meetings with Scouts, ensure you have at least 2 adults in attendance.

The various programs have many features, but the ones above are the most important for cybersecurity. Take a few minutes to look online for additional tips and tricks on how to effectively use each service. If you have any questions, reach out to your District Executive.