



# SQUARE KNOT NOTES

Monthly Edition

From your Sam Houston Area Council Commissioner Team

April 2020

## VIRTUAL MEETING TIPS

Here are some tips that may be useful when planning virtual Scouting meetings:

- Emphasize that the meeting is an *official* BSA meeting
- Adhere to Youth Protection guidelines
- Set expectations: normal unit uniforming/attire should be worn
- Begin meetings with the Pledge of Allegiance
- Include the Scout Oath and Law, as appropriate
- Include an opening invocation, as appropriate
- Where possible and appropriate, conduct the meeting in a manner similar to an in person meeting
- Where possible, close the meeting in accordance with your normal manner

## SHAC SCOUTING AT HOME

Scouting activities contribute to the academic development of the children who participate. In the elementary grades, the program is built around a series of theme-based explorations. As a Cub Scout advances, the requirements get more challenging, to match the new skills and abilities they have learned. Cub Scout advancement supports over 120 elementary TEKS. In the middle and high school grades, service, community engagement and leadership development become increasingly important parts of the program as youth lead their own activities. More than 85% of merit badges include requirements that meet National Science Education Standards, giving Scouts a foundation in everything from nuclear science to robotics. Learn more at [www.shac.org/education](http://www.shac.org/education). BSA has resources to help both parents and leaders support Scouting at home, with stay-at-home activities for any Scout rank, and tips for continuing to work on advancement. Visit [Sam Houston Area Council's Scouting at Home](http://www.shac.org/education) site for more ideas.

Read the important [digital safety guidelines](#) from BSA National Council.

## CALENDAR

Cockrell Scout Center and Scout shops are currently closed.  
All in person meetings are canceled or postponed.  
Please stay safe and wash your hands!

## VIRTUAL SCOUTING BEST PRACTICES

The Scouting spirit is alive and well: a long list of resources to enable virtual Scouting is already available. A new national council webpage, which will continue to expand, is up and running with key information and resources: [Scouting at Home](#)

Bryan on Scouting is an official BSA Scouting Magazine resource; subscribe if you haven't done so already; it will be a great, ongoing resource on a variety of topics: [Bryan On Scouting Magazine](#)

If you know a great virtual Scouting best practice, share it so others can use it to keep on Scouting. Send your best practices to: [commissionerserviceteam@Scouting.org](mailto:commissionerserviceteam@Scouting.org).

## VIRTUAL SCOUTING RESOURCES

There have been challenging times throughout Scouting's history, including war, economic depression, and natural disasters. Each time, Scouts have met those challenges by focusing on helping others – and have grown strong in the process. As our nation responds to COVID-19, it's more important than ever to find ways for its youth to keep on Scouting.

The social distancing practices needed to slow the spread of the virus limit our ability for traditional meetings of all types. Resources and tools are available to help implement virtual meetings that enable Scouting to continue. Many resources have already come online; more are being added daily.

Here's a list of resources available today.

- [Scouting at Home](#)
- [National Statement on COVID-19](#)
- [Bryan on Scouting Magazine](#)
- [News for Commissioners](#)
- [Scouting at Home](#)
- [Advancement Academy](#)
- [30 Day Challenge](#)
- [Troop/Pack Zoom Meetings](#)
- [At Home Scouting Activities](#)

## UNIT STRONG

Strong Units are finding ways to connect with their members as we stay-at-home. They are helping their members to stay engaged, continue to advance, and continue to learn. Strong units are finding creative ways to engage and support their families.

Have a great idea, pressing concern, success story? Email [squareknotnotes@yahoo.com](mailto:squareknotnotes@yahoo.com). We serve \*you\*!  
Do you call communication feedback a gift? It truly is!