

Virtual Meeting Safety Tips

Nothing is more important than ensuring the health and safety of girls, whether they're engaged in a real-world activity or exploring online. Instilling in girls an understanding of the best ways to stay safe in today's complicated world is a top priority for us.

Also, for Girl Scout activities that involve the Internet, be sure to consult this [online safety guide](#). Then have your girl sign the Girl Scout [Online Safety Pledge](#).

Please know that there are some risks associated with online learning. Girls may be invited to view troop or GSWNY YouTube Channels or other semi-public platforms (such as Zoom or Google Meet) to provide girls with activities, challenges, and additional resources for learning. Since these applications offer an open platform for many users around the globe, GSWNY advises families to be aware of the hazards and risks associated with given online platforms (such as YouTube) and should monitor girl's usage frequently.

Here are some tips for reducing risks and becoming more effective digital citizens:

1. Whenever creating any kind of account on the internet be sure to use a robust password. This is one of the easiest ways to defend against hackers. Strong passwords contain at least 9 characters – more is better. They should contain upper and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols. They also should not contain identifying dates or names related to you or your family.
2. Monitor your girl's device usage frequently and only use the recommended links and applications for online learning.
3. When participating in a Zoom platform, do not use your girl's full name for the account. Instead use first names and last initial or create a pseudo nickname so that is the visible identifier below the child's face.
4. Do not allow your girl to participate in video conferencing when the background provides identifying information about your home address (i.e. Do not have your girl conference on the front porch where a viewer may see your house number).
5. To admit participants into your meeting as the host, once you've started the meeting, you'll begin to see the number of participants in your waiting room within the Manage Participants icon. Next, select Manage Participants to view the full list. Then, you'll have the option to admit participants individually by selecting the blue Admit button next to their name or all at once with the Admit All option on the top right-hand side of your screen.
6. To manage your Waiting Room watch this 2-minute video breaking down how to admit participants from your waiting room into the meeting. Also, [watch now](#) or read the [blog post](#) to learn how to secure your virtual classroom.
7. Please remember that some families have not signed photo releases and therefore please be careful to only post girls who have not opted out of the photo permissions photos/videos using social media.

Other helpful resources: [How to Host Your Virtual Girl Scout Zoom Meeting](#), [Zoom Meeting Settings Tips Sheet](#) and [How to Prevent "Zoombombing"](#).

For more information on the Waiting Room feature, please visit Zoom's [Knowledge Center](#) or Zoom's [Blog](#).

Please reach out to Zoom's Support Team if you have any questions at support@zoom.us.