

## Tips for Working with Youth Virtually and Safely

[SIA's Standards for Working with Youth](#) apply whether you are working face-to-face or virtually. However, meeting virtually requires some additional preparation!

- Avoid virtual interactions with youth under the age of 13. Some states/provinces have additional laws protecting youth in this age group from having their contact information captured online.
- Contact the parents/guardians of your *Dream It, Be It* participants and provide information about how, when, and where virtual meetings will take place. Continue to update parents about virtual meetings.
- You will need [parental consent](#) to include their child in any virtual meeting space, and additional permission to record the meeting.
- Acquire [media consent](#) before taking any screenshots of the meeting to share.
- Ensure that there are always at least two Soroptimists in a virtual meeting, just as you would in person.
- Do not connect, friend, or message youth on social media outside of group settings.
- Remind your participants that this meeting is just for them and that they shouldn't share the link with others. This ensures that your meeting stays secure.
- Consider using a meeting password to protect your meeting from outside intrusion.
- Set ground rules for participation with girls, including a rule against sharing personal contact information with others during the virtual meeting.
- Be understanding that some girls may not want to show their living spaces or may not be able to participate regularly because they are sharing technology with other family members. Consider ways to connect that don't require live participation every time to be more inclusive.
- If a participant says something that causes concern, tell them you'd like to talk to them more about it after the meeting. Encourage them to stay online after the main meeting and ask them to tell you more (be sure that there is another Soroptimist present for this as well). Follow any mandated reporting standards required if needed after the conversation.
- Keep a record of who attended each session and what content was discussed.
- Research and be aware of any additional guidelines that may apply in your area.