

Live Streaming Meetings to FaceBook

During the Covid-19 lockdown, to engage with youth members using FaceBook is becoming very popular. Here are guidelines that will help leaders make better use of technology when holding virtual meetings.

What equipment is needed?

A computer and a webcam are all you need, and most laptops have a Webcam built in.

At a push you could use a smart phone.

You will need a Facebook account, ideally, you need to be an admin or contributor for your Group's page, so that you broadcast on behalf of the Group, rather than as an individual.

Whilst you could go live at this point, there is one piece of additional (free) software that you could load onto your PC or laptop before you start - OBS Studio.

How will OBS Studio help with live streaming?

This is a simple interface that enables switching between your camera & your PC or laptop as you stream to Facebook.

This allows you to select and change what is displayed on the screen and at what time. Find it here: <https://obsproject.com>

There a good help section on the page with Quickstart Guides.

How to prepare FaceBook for live streaming

From Facebook, navigate to your Group's page and choose 'Videos' from the left-hand menu.

Then choose 'Video Library' in the newly opened screen and then the '+Live' button at the top. You may get a banner with a green button that says 'Try Live Producer' If you do click it! The Live Producer is the newer version of Facebook's interface and will be replacing the old one soon. The page has several tips on how to make the best of your stream so take a moment to have a look around. If it's not already highlighted click 'Use Stream Key' and then tick 'Use a persistent stream key'. This will then generate a unique Stream Key just for your channel (do not share this with others outside of your Group as they will be able to broadcast using your identity).

If you haven't already done so, install OBS Studio and then run it. On first launch it will run an auto-configure wizard.

How to prepare OBS to link to FaceBook

Once it's ready, open the Stream Settings page, by navigating the menus 'File', > 'Settings', > Stream. Change the service to 'Facebook Live', set the server to 'Default' and then copy and paste your Stream Key from Facebook into the Stream Key box.

How to add to add the Webcam and Microphone to OBS

Add the first scene, click the + at the bottom of the Scenes window and name it 'Webcam'.

Now add a Source to our new Scene, so click the + at the bottom of the Sources window.

From the pop-up menu choose Video Capture Device, leave the name as default and click 'OK' In the device box, choose your computer's webcam & confirm.

You need to add a microphone too, so repeat the steps above but add an Audio Input Capture this time.

Now every time we click on 'Webcam' in the Scene list we automatically switch to our webcam and microphone.

How to add additional content to share

Add at least one more Scene so there's something different to show the viewers, what you choose to add is entirely up to you. As you add more Scenes do not forget to add different sources to them. You can add a browser, so viewers can see your internet browser, you can add a specific image, a media file / video or any combination of the above.

Making your video live on FaceBook

Once this is done click 'Start Streaming' in OBS Studio and after a few seconds your video should appear on Facebook - but this is not live yet.

At the bottom left of your Facebook page is a box marked 'Publish as Test Broadcast' tick this and then click the blue 'Go Live' now you're running your first test.

Stop the stream after a while and review it to see how it looked.

Make any adjustments as needed before you go live properly.

When you are ready for the actual event just leave the 'Test Broadcast' button un-ticked and you will be streaming live.

Tips for a good streaming

- * When setting up your stream in Facebook before going live, give your video a meaningful title & description.
- * Make sure you are lit well when on camera, a dark room will lead to a dark video.
- * Watch out for the background, choose an uncluttered scene. You may not want your own pictures or something else on the wall behind you.
- * Make sure the TV and radio are off or you are not next to an open window with traffic noise while broadcasting. Microphones can pick up a lot of background noise.
- * Plan your content and practice before you start.
- * It helps if you can have someone with you when you are streaming if you can, they can reply to the chat window as people comment as well as provide interaction between you and your audience.

Keeping young people safe at online meetings is key. [Click here](#) to read the Scout Associations Guidelines.

Many thanks to Teo, a Cub Leader from East Norfolk and a member of the County Media Team.