

Tips for Volunteering Virtually

Sharing your video:

Share your video using Google Drive, iCloud, or wetransfer.com. You are welcome to use any file sharing source; these are just a few examples.

Recording tips:

1. Don't be intimidated! Have fun with this!
2. If you are using a phone to record, be sure to turn the phone **horizontally** so the video recording is long and wide like a TV or computer screen.
3. Whatever your recording device, set it up so that **you** are the primary focus of the video. Don't have the shot so wide out or distant that the screen is filled with your surroundings. Focus on you and what you are doing.
4. Try to record at eye level, straight on. Tilting a recording device up or down towards you can create a warped perspective.
5. It is better to make your recording device stationary. For instance, instead of having another person hold your phone and filming you, mount or prop up your phone. Even creatively stacked books can make for a great phone stand!
6. If you are recording by yourself, you may prefer to use a front facing camera so you can see yourself as you record instead of waiting to find issues in the final product upon review.
7. For lighting, avoid having direct overhead light or light coming from behind the person being recorded. Instead, it's best to record while you are facing towards a diffuse light source. Great diffuse light sources are natural light through a window with a light curtain or shade, natural light on an overcast day and soft lighting from lamps with shades. Examples of poor lighting would be LED overhead lighting, lamps without shades or bare light bulbs, and bright sunlight. Be sure your light source is behind the recording device, facing the subject of the recording.
8. True colors and simple patterns look best when it comes to clothing and backgrounds. Avoid neon colors or bright whites as they can throw off your cameras color/white balance. Fine prints can be hard to read on camera or can even create distorted images.
9. For clear audio, be sure your microphone is not covered or blocked. Many people can accidentally cover the mike with their fingers, their mounts, or other computer accessories. Sometimes even phone cases can partially block a microphone.
10. If recording with the front facing camera ("selfie mode"), silently count to 3 before turning off your camera. This will give plenty of time to edit, making it end flawlessly.
11. Take some sample recordings testing your visuals, audio and lighting before you start.
12. You may find it helpful to search for recording tips on YouTube. There are many tutorials available.

Rules:

- No books or music can be used if they are not in the public domain. (Use a search engine to find many of these books and songs.)
- Please avoid using brand names in your video.

Questions:

Contact Debbie

debbie.garrett@stjude.org

901-237-9384 (call or text)



St. Jude Volunteers
Connecting Virtually



Family, Guest and
Volunteer Services