



Explorations

Club Officer Guide



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Explorations Overview

Explorations are in-depth learning experiences designed to help members build targeted skills. Each exploration focuses on a specific topic, allowing members to explore multiple aspects of the topic. The first exploration, Online Meeting Mastery, launches this year.

Each exploration will include three core projects and one culminating assignment, where members apply learning from across the exploration. Members may complete individual projects in any order, but all core projects must be completed before beginning the culminating assignment. This allows members to practice individual skills before combining them in the culminating assignment, supporting gradual skill development and application. As explorations are focused on one specific topic, they do not include elective projects.

Exploration projects will feel similar to path projects, while also introducing some new elements. Projects include built-in note-taking tools, simplified formatting, and updated visual design elements that improve readability and make the content easy to navigate. Members who prefer offline learning can also download PDF versions of projects and evaluation resources.

Explorations Audience

Explorations may appeal to members of your club for multiple reasons. Some members may be excited about a specific topic. For example, a member who is regularly required to participate in, or run, online meetings may be excited about the Online Meeting Mastery exploration because the topic is particularly relevant to them.

Other members may be looking for new learning opportunities that are shorter and offered at a lower price point than paths (see the Additional Information section for pricing information).

Because every exploration project incorporates a growing range of skills, members at all experience levels can benefit from them. Explorations are especially valuable for members who want to strengthen a particular skill, try something new, or continue developing their communication and leadership abilities.

Online Meeting Mastery

The first exploration will be Online Meeting Mastery, coming later this year. This exploration will guide members through the fundamentals of attending online meetings, delivering online presentations, and leading online meetings. As members progress through the projects, the content and assignments become more complex.

This exploration includes five sections: an introduction, three core projects with individual assignments, and one culminating assignment. The introduction gives a detailed overview of what members will encounter in the exploration. The structure of the core projects is similar to path projects, and each includes a speech assignment.

Core projects will focus on the fully online setting, while also showing how the learning can be applied in a hybrid setting. Each core project includes an assignment that must take place in a fully online setting. The culminating assignment pulls everything together in a hybrid setting.



Welcome to the Online Meeting Mastery exploration. Explorations are shorter and more specialized than Pathways paths. As such, you will delve deeper into topics of interest to you.

This exploration helps you grow as an online communicator and leader. Leaders skilled in online communication are attentive. They share their thoughts respectfully. They speak clearly and effectively use online meeting platforms, such as Zoom, Google Meet, and Microsoft Teams, to guide discussion and collaboration. They know how to use key platform features and can troubleshoot common issues when they occur. Like any important skill, online communication improves with time, practice, and reflection.

The Online Meeting Mastery exploration includes three core projects with individual assignments and one culminating assignment. The first three projects are similar

Explorations do not have levels like paths. Instead, they're divided into two sections: Core Content and Culminating Assignment. Core Content consists of the Introduction, the three projects, and the Core Content Completion.

1 Core Content

- ✓ Online Meeting Mastery Introduction Last visited
- ✓ Attending Online Meetings
- ✓ Delivering Online Presentations
- ✓ Leading Online Meetings
- ✓ Core Content Completion

The Culminating Assignment section consists of the final assignment and the Exploration Completion, which members will use to request completion of the entire exploration.

Culminating Assignment

-  Online Meeting Mastery Exploration Culminating Assignment
 -  Exploration Completion
-

New Learning Features

Developed in response to member feedback, explorations introduce Key Considerations and Planning Your Next Steps. Although neither activity is required to complete a project, members are encouraged to participate fully to get the most value from the learning experience.

Key Considerations appears at the beginning of each project and includes several short-answer reflection questions that connect members' personal experiences to the project topic. Some questions may feel personal, so it is important to remind members that their responses are not shared with the club. These reflections help members engage meaningfully with the content and recognize their growth over time.

Planning Your Next Steps appears after members complete the project and assignment. This section encourages members to reflect on evaluator feedback, consider what they learned, and identify ways to apply those skills in everyday situations.

Credentials, Recognition, and DCP Credit

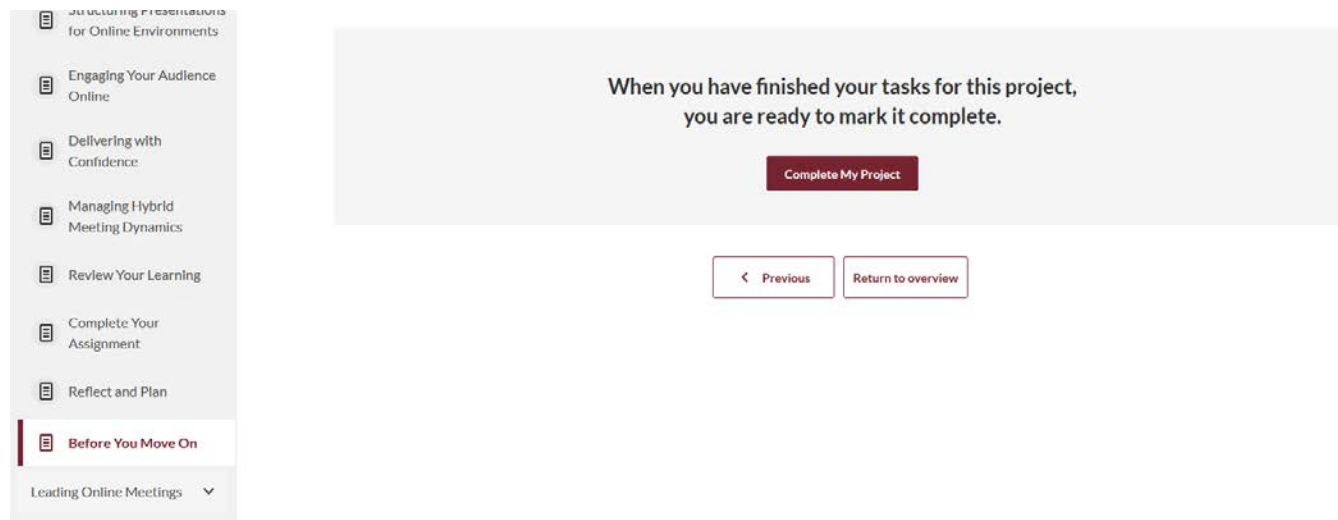
Members working in explorations will receive recognition in the form of a badge and certificate upon completion of the entire exploration. Exploration badges and certificates will be awarded on Base Camp alongside badges and certificates members receive for levels and paths. Members will be able to share badges to social media and download and print certificates.

Distinguished Club Program (DCP) credit will be awarded for completing an entire exploration. When you or another Base Camp manager approves completions on Base Camp, the completion will be automatically awarded to your club on Club Central. The Online Meeting Mastery exploration can be applied toward goals 2 and 3 of the DCP, in place of a Level 2 completion.

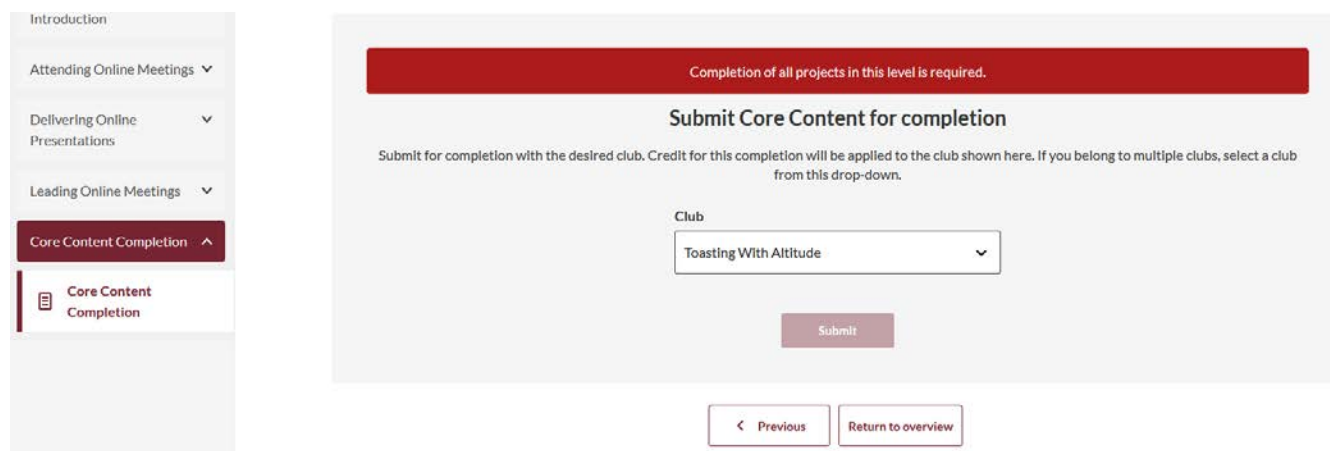
Supporting Members in Explorations

Completing Work in Explorations

The process for completions in explorations mirrors the process used in paths. The only difference is that explorations do not include levels. Instead, there are two sections: Core Content and Culminating Assignment. When a member completes a project and has received their evaluation, they will need to select the “Complete My Project” button on the last page:



In addition, as with any level in a path, members must submit the entire Core Content section to be approved by a Base Camp manager. Members won't be able to submit this completion request until all three projects in Core Content are complete. If one or more projects are not finished yet, they will see the below message:



When a Base Camp manager receives a completion request for the Core Content section, they should confirm that the member has completed all three projects and the associated assignments in that section. This confirms that the member has completed the learning required to begin the Culminating Assignment. Unlike a level completion, the Core Content Completion does not include credit or apply toward the Distinguished Club program; credit is awarded upon completion of the entire exploration.

Members should begin working on the Culminating Assignment only after the Core Content is complete. The Culminating Assignment must be marked complete using the same process as for projects. Then, the member is ready to request that their Base Camp manager approve completion of the entire exploration. This can be done on the very last page of the “Culminating Assignment” section. Please note that if the Core Content section is not marked complete, members will see the below message:

Camp manager.

You are about to submit a completion request for this exploration. Once completed, your exploration is still available to view at any time.

Completion of previous levels is required to send this approval request.

Submit Online Meeting Mastery for completion

Submit for completion with the desired club. Credit for this completion will be applied to the club shown here. If you belong to multiple clubs, select a club from this drop-down.

Club

Toasting With Altitude

Submit

Supporting Members in Online Meeting Mastery

The projects in Online Meeting Mastery are different from most other Pathways projects, due to the nature of the topic. Each assignment requires members to use online meeting platforms. The assignments in Delivering Online Presentations and Leading Online Meetings require a fully online format. The Culminating Assignment requires a hybrid format. To support members, this may mean adjusting your club format or helping them find a way to complete the assignment outside of your club.

To start thinking about how your club can support members in this exploration, familiarize yourself with the assignments now:

- Attending Online Meetings: Attend an online meeting. After the meeting, give a 5- to 7-minute speech.
- Delivering Online Presentations: Deliver a 5- to 7-minute presentation on any topic in an online meeting.
- Leading Online Meetings: Lead an online meeting that lasts at least 20 minutes.
- Culminating Assignment: Give a 7- to 10-minute speech in a hybrid meeting. After the speech, lead a 10- to 15-minute Q&A session.
- This is new with explorations. Rather than serving as a separate project, it brings together the key skills developed in the three preceding core projects.

Encourage members working in these projects to coordinate with your Vice President Education well in advance of their speech or presentation. If you have multiple members working in this exploration, consider asking them to complete their assignments on the same day. For example, a member completing the Leading Online Meetings project could organize your online meeting, while a member completing Delivering Online Presentations gives their speech, and another member completing Attending Online Meetings, uses this as the meeting they'll attend and present a speech about.

If your club does not already meet online, you may not have an online meeting platform ready to use. Free and low-cost online meeting tools are available. Search online to compare current plans and features.

Alternatively, your club could partner with an online club to get access to online tools. This may also simplify coordination for the required hybrid meeting environment in the culminating assignment.

If adjusting your meeting format isn't an option for your club, members could visit another club that meets in the required format. Or, with approval from the Vice President Education, they could complete the assignment outside of Toastmasters.

Additional Information

- **Who can purchase explorations?**
 - All members may purchase an exploration after they have selected their first path. While completion of Level 1 is not required to purchase or work in an exploration, it is recommended. Completing Level 1 before starting an exploration ensures that all members have the same foundational experience by completing the exact same projects at the start of their journey.
- **How can I support members completing an exploration?**
 - Share the information in this document with members in your club who might be interested in shorter learnings or who could benefit from the Online Meeting Mastery topic.
 - Start discussing how you and other club officers might be able to adjust a club meeting to accommodate members who would like to complete these projects.
 - If a member in your club starts working in an exploration before finishing Level 1 and does not seem ready for more advanced projects, encourage them to complete Level 1, or at least their Ice Breaker, first.
- **How much will explorations cost?**
 - Each exploration will cost \$15 USD.
- **How can I purchase an exploration?**
 - Buying an exploration follows the same steps as selecting a new path.
 1. Log in to toastmasters.org.
 2. Go to the Learning Hub.
 3. Select "Choose My Learning."
 4. Choose English as your language.
Explorations are currently available in English only.
 5. Click "View All Learning."
 6. Scroll to the bottom of the page.
 7. Under "Additional Content," select your exploration.
- **Will explorations qualify for Distinguished Toastmaster credit?**
 - The education requirements for the Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) award include the completion of two unique paths and the Distinguished Toastmaster project. Explorations are part of the Pathways learning experience but are unique from paths and do not include five levels. This means that explorations are not eligible to apply toward the DTM award.
- **As a Base Camp manager, how will I track progress for members working in explorations?**
 - Because explorations are completed on Base Camp, progress will be tracked in the same way as all other paths. You and your fellow club officers will be able to approve completions on Base Camp and will view member progress from Member Profiles and the Base Camp Manager dashboard.
- **Will explorations include speech logs? How will members receive evaluations?**
 - Explorations will include speech logs. Members working in explorations will have the same options for evaluations as all other Pathways projects: 1. Emailing a speech log to their evaluator from their project on Base Camp or 2. Downloading or printing the PDF evaluation to provide to their evaluator.

- **Will members evaluating work in explorations need additional information about the content?**
 - Every exploration project includes its own evaluation resource. These resources are available on the Base Camp Resources page, making them easy to access for members who are not participating in the exploration. Like other Pathways evaluation resources, they provide the specific criteria evaluators should consider when giving feedback. Evaluators can use these resources to deliver effective evaluations, even if they are not working in the exploration themselves.
- **Will members who use assistive technology be able to engage with explorations?**
 - Yes. Because these projects are built on Base Camp, they are compatible with assistive technology in the same way as content from other Pathways learnings. This includes both the path navigation and the content itself. If members using assistive technology would prefer to use a PDF, they may download either the full exploration or individual projects from Base Camp. Because the explorations content is interactive, members should choose the learning experience that best suits their preferences.
- **Will explorations be available in translated languages? Will they be approved for District translations teams to translate into additional languages?**
 - The initial launch of explorations will be in English only. Following the launch, World Headquarters will closely monitor member engagement with these paths to evaluate future content, including translated content and potential approval for District translations.
 - Any updates related to the translation of explorations will be shared on the **Pathways Updates page** as information becomes available.



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