SCOUTBOOK

Time Available

10-20 minutes depending on the agenda format being used

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Explain what Scoutbook is and why it is used

2. Explain how units can still put information in the system if they are not yet Scoutbook users

3. Refer leaders to where they can learn more about how to use the program

Suggested Presenter(s)

The ideal presenter would be an experienced user of the platform. Your district or council may have dedicated volunteers who can be approached to deliver the topic.

Presentation Method

- Information on how to obtain Scoutbook can be distributed as a handout or, if used, in the unit mailboxes.

- If internet is available, set up a suitable display and demonstrate features of the program for unit leaders to approach with questions.

- The challenge is to maintain the proper time frame and scope of the presentation. Longer, separate training can be arranged as a follow-up. This roundtable is designed to be a general information session.

BSA Reference Materials

- Scoutbook, www.scoutbook.com

- Your district or council may already have dedicated instructional videos available.

Presentation Content

- Why is it so hard to keep adequate records in Scouting?

  —Youth and families move.

  —Cub Scout records are separate from Boy Scout records, so there is no one file on a young man from Tiger to, say, the Summit Award in Venturing.

  —And speaking of young men, Joseph P. Smith may be in different Scouting records as Joey, Joe, and Joseph. Merging that information may require help from your council office to create an accurate record of Mr. Smith in the system.

  —Most of the earlier attempts at automation in Scouting are not compatible with each other.

- Members and their families are often quite experienced in using computers and cell phones to capture and record data.

  —Scoutbook was launched because there needed to be an easier way for units to do the "paperwork" of the program.

  —Making it easier to enter and keep information allows volunteers to spend more time doing what they signed up to do: helping young men and women in their community.

  —Making the process easier will encourage units to enter their information regularly.

- Scoutbook gives us one common interface and system that will make it easier to

  —Track advancement within the unit

  —Enter advancement in the national system (commonly called "internet advancement")

  —Make internet rechartering go faster

  —Stay in touch with parents

  —Help unit leaders organize activities and events

  —Upload pictures and video of unit activities

  —Follow youth members as they move from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts to Venturing and/or relocate geographically

  —Access data anywhere there is connectivity to the internet

- While there are other record-keeping systems on the market, Scoutbook is the one program built to work directly with the improving computer infrastructure at the National Service Center. It is not guaranteed that other programs will continue to work.

  —There are plans to allow porting of data from some programs, but details are still being addressed.

- Pricing is set so that units can easily afford to use the program and make it available to unit leaders and members.