

Scouting the Internet (CED250)

Mt. Diablo Silverado Council

L.E.A.D. Training

January 22, 2011

Official BSA sites:

www.scouting.org – National BSA web site

www.scoutstuff.org – BSA Supply Division (on-line store)

olc.scouting.org – BSA online learning center

myscouting.scouting.org – BSA member portal (tour permits, online learning, event registrations, rechartering, Scouting Community forums).

NEW - lookup training records for yourself or other Scouters in your unit

[BSA Training Updates](#) – occasional updates on new or changed training requirements

[District/Council manuals](#) – BSA publications in PDF format

[Commissioner Resources](#) – more BSA publications in PDF format

[Journey to Excellence program](#) – replaces the Quality Unit program

www.bsahandbook.org – Boy Scout Handbook companion site

www.boyslife.org – *Boy's Life* Magazine

www.scoutingmagazine.org – *Scouting Magazine*

blog.scoutingmagazine.org - Cracker Barrel: the official blog of *Scouting Magazine*

www.bsajamboree.org – National Jamboree website

www.goodturnforamerica.org – Good Turn for America website

www.oa-bsa.org – National Order of the Arrow

www.scouting.org/scoutsource/TheSummit.aspx - The Summit Bechtel Family National Scouting Reserve

www.philmontscoutranch.org – Philmont high adventure base

www.toothoftimetraders.com – Tooth of Time Traders online store

www.ntier.org – Northern Tier high adventure base

www.bsaseabase.org – Florida Sea Base high adventure base

www.bsalegal.org – legal issues related to BSA

www.scoutingfriends.org – for Scouting alumni and friends

www.bsamuseum.org – National Scouting Museum

www.beascout.org – scout unit locator, info for new families

www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Venturing.aspx - main Venturing webpage

www.seascout.org – Sea Scout National website

www.nesa.org – National Eagle Scout Association

Local scouting sites:

www.bsa-mdsc.org – Mount Diablo-Silverado Council's web site. Location of the Council's monthly newsletter (Smoke Signals), on-line registration for events, district information, council camp information, a calendar and forms. Also, signing up for e-mail lists for Council announcements is also available.

www.bdscouts.org – Black Diamond District

www.chiefsolanobsa.net – Chief Solano District

www.ironhosedistrictbsa.org – Iron Horse District

www.bsameridian.org – Meridian District

www.muirdistrict.org – Muir District

www.silvergatebsa.com – Silver Gate District

www.3districttraining.org – upcoming training dates for the Meridian, Iron Horse, and Aklan districts.

www.blackhawk500.org – info on our local Council's Pinewood Derby race in April.

All-around scouting resource sites:

www.usscouts.org – anything and EVERYTHING about the Scouting program!

www.boyscouttrail.com – ceremonies, skits, songs, Scoutmaster minutes, plus LOTS of great reference information

www.inquiry.net – “Old School” scouting resources (history, games, patrol method)

www.meritbadge.org – all about advancement (Cubs, Scouts, Venturing, and Varsity)

www.animatedknots.com – all about knots!

www.macscouter.com – a part of usscouts.org with lots of games, songs, skits, ceremonies, etc...

www.scoutorama.com – another anything and everything site with lots of songs and skits

www.Sageventure.com – Venturing info, plus lots of badge and rank history

rt492.org – Bill Smith's Unofficial Cub Scout Roundtable. TONS of material for Cub scout pack and den meetings.

www.scoutingnews.org – Updates and news items on anything Scouting

www.geoscouting.com – Use geocaching to promote Scouting

www.wswd.org – working with Scouts with disabilities

www.apo.org – Alpha Phi Omega national service fraternity

Even more links at the Google Scouting directory at

<http://www.google.com/Top/Recreation/Scouting/> (in particular, click on “Resources”)

Awards and supplemental programs:

[Academics & Sports Program](#)

[Boy's Life Reading Contest](#)

[Crime Prevention Award](#)

[Donor Awareness Patch](#)

[Emergency Preparedness Award](#)

[Internet Scout Patch](#)

[Leave No Trace Awareness Award](#)

[Outdoor Activity Award](#)

[Religious Emblems Programs](#)

[Scouting-the-Web Award](#)

[United States Heritage Award](#)

[Youth Patriotism Awards](#)

Cub Scout crafts, games, skits:

[Den Leader Resources](#) – official page with pointers to a lot of useful Cub Scout information

[BALOO's bugle](#) – monthly tips, crafts, games, and theme-related ideas for packs and dens based on the Program Helps

Also, check out the many all-around scouting resource sites listed above.

Local Overnights:

[Alcatraz Overnight Program](#) – sleep in a cell block in a prison on an island in the bay (indoor) [do a web search for “alcaztraz overnight” if the link is broken]

[Aquarium of the Bay](#) – sleep with the fishes (indoor)

[Chabot Space and Science Center](#) – sleep with the stars (indoor)

[Gilroy \(Bonfante\) Gardens](#) – sleep at an amusement park (outdoor)

[Monterey Bay Aquarium](#) – sleep with more fishes (indoor)

[Oakland Zoo](#) – sleep with the wild animals (indoor)

[San Francisco Zoo](#) – sleep with more wild animals (indoor)

[Sharks in the Dark](#) – sleep with the sharks (indoor)

[Tall Ship Overnighter](#) – sleep on a sailing ship at a pier (indoor)

[USS Hornet](#) – sleep on a World War II aircraft carrier (indoor)

[USS Pampanito](#) – sleep on a World War II submarine (indoor except night watch!)

Pack Meeting entertainment:

[Timothy James, Magician](#) – He's an ex-Scout and puts on a real good show.

[Native Birds Connection](#) – Native Bird Connections. Interesting birds and raptors at a pack meeting. Inexpensive.

[Mt. Diablo Beekeepers Association](#) – Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association.

Inexpensive and very interesting for the boys. They bring in an actual hive with a queen bee.

[Mad Science](#) – Mad Science. They can put on a "fire" show which wows the kids, or one of their other presentations. \$200+

[Lindsay Wildlife Museum](#) – Lindsay Wildlife Museum will provide docents to speak to your group.

[Python Ron](#) – Python Ron ... snakes and reptiles. \$200+.

Hiking:

[Highlander Hiking Program](#) – MDSC's hiking and patch program

[Trail Trekkers](#) – SF Bay Area Council's Cub Scout hiking and patch program

[Rim Rovers](#) – SF Bay Area Council's Boy Scout hiking and patch program

[Presidio Historic Trail Hike](#) – another SFBAC hike for either Cubs or Boy Scouts at the Presidio and Golden Gate Bridge

[Hoot Owl hike information](#) – night hike in Livermore. Part of the SF Bay Area Council's Trail Trekkers program

[Nationally Approved Historic Trails](#) – search engine that can be used to find historic trails throughout the country

[Northern California Hikes](#) – info from the Golden Empire Council (Sacramento)

Pinewood Derby supplies/sites:

www.pinewoodpro.com – supplies, car plans, and tools

www.derbyworx.com – supplies and tools

www.grandprix-software-central.com – the most popular software used to run Pinewood Derby races and connect to electronic timers

www.derbytalk.com – online forum to share tips and ask questions of Pinewood Derby experts

Outdoor Gear & uniforms

www.50miler.com – great outdoor resource site created by local Scouter Mike Dubrall.

Lots of very useful, local information about anything and everything outdoors.

www.wheretogocamping.info – our local Ut-In Selica OA lodge has created an online forum for local camping, day trip and summer camp info and discussion, along with a copy of a “Where to go Camping” book that was produced by the lodge.

www.campmor.com – camping gear at good prices

www.alpsmountaineering.com – call to ask about scout discount

www.scoutdirect.com – call to ask about scout discount

www.rei.com (and the REI outlet store, too)

www.freecycle.org and eBay can be good locations to find second hand uniforms, gear and other essentials at lower prices (or free)

www.ClassB.com has a wide variety of Scout T-shirts in all sorts of designs. You can create your design online and customize everything.

Community Service ideas:

[EBRPD Volunteers](#) – East Bay Regional Park District volunteer opportunities

[Dept. of Veteran’s Affairs](#) – ideas for Memorial Day, Veteran’s Day and Flag Day

Online forums:

www.scouter.com – very active online forum where questions on anything scouting can be posted and discussed. Many very experienced scouters regularly contribute their knowledge and advice.

community.scouting.org – the official BSA online forum for discussion and feedback on all aspects of the program. Professionals and volunteers from BSA National monitor various groups for feedback and issues.

E-mail lists and groups:

e-mail lists and Yahoo! or Google groups can be a great way to get up-to-date info, news, and advice from fellow scout leaders. They can also fill your inbox very quickly!

[Mount Diablo Silverado Council e-mail lists](#) – sign up for notices and announcements from Council. Low volume. Go to the [MDSC website](#), click on “Resources” at the top, then “E-Lists” on the left.

[District e-mail lists](#) are also available and are typically maintained by a scouter in your district. Go to Roundtable, ask around, and get yourself on your district’s list.

[usscouts.org e-mail lists](#) – a variety of lists on different scouting subjects from Cubs to Venturing. In particular, the ‘Cub-I’ list is very active.

[Cub-Scout-Talk Yahoo! group](#) -- another Cub Scout list which allows you to receive e-mail in ‘digest’ form with many messages in one e-mail, instead of getting many individual e-mails.

[scouts-I list](#) – a very active Boy Scout list. You can join the list with the link in the upper right of the page, or just browse the messages on the website.

[venturing Yahoo! group](#) – likewise, a Venturing Yahoo! group

Facebook:

The BSA has an official presence on Facebook with the following pages, among others: [Scoutstuff](#) – contests, discounts and quick response to messages with questions or complaints

[Boy Scouts of America](#) – news and info from BSA National

[Scouting Magazine](#) – articles and features from Scouting Magazine

[Boys’ Life magazine](#) – Boy’s Life magazine info and news

[The Bechtel Summit](#) - The Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve

[Philmont Training Center](#) – PTC updates and pics

[National Scouting Museum](#) – updates from the Museum in Texas

There are also a ton of other local, event-specific, and unofficial pages such as the [50miler.com Outing Resource Center](#) page.

Blogs:

There are many, many scouting blogs written by scouters, for scouters. A quick Google search on “scouting blog” will point in the right direction. One example is at <http://www.melrosetroop68.org/blog.html>. This page also has many links to other blogs on the right hand side of the page a little ways down.

Web hosting for units:

www.decisiondesign.com/scouts.asp – free hosting and software to create Scout unit websites. See www.palmerpack215.com for a live site.

www.scoutlander.com – another free hosting site for Scout unit websites

Online software:

www.troopmaster.com – TroopMaster and PackMaster software to manage all aspects of a unit's program. Also interfaces to ScoutNet and assists with re-chartering.
www.scoutmanage.com – another online program that leaders and parents can use to track and communicate anything regarding the unit
trax.boy-scouts.net - tracking spreadsheets for awards and recognitions

General Tips:

- sharing PDF files with your units is preferred to using other file formats (Word, Excel) for read-only documents since anyone can read a PDF file with free Adobe Acrobat software. To convert any file to PDF, install PrimoPDF from www.primopdf.com. PrimoPDF acts like a printer connected to your machine. When you print to the PrimoPDF printer, a PDF file gets created for you automatically.

- Searching websites using their own “Search” box can be hit or miss. www.scouting.org in particular had a very poor search engine until recently. Often times, going to www.google.com and entering a search such as “belt loops site:scouting.org” will return better results than searching for “belt loops” directly on the scouting.org site.

- images.google.com is a great place to look for pictures and clip art for newsletters or flyers. Do a search on what you need, go to the page where the image is located, and then save the original file to your computer.

General scout unit website and e-mail considerations:

Unit websites are one piece of the Pack/Troop Communications Plan.
Email lists, phone calls, event fliers, printed calendars, etc. are equally important.

websites:

- accessible 24/7 to internal and external audiences
- inexpensive to maintain
- can include calendars, photo galleries, videos
- have a plan to make the site sustainable (Who will be the next webmaster?)
- have a public face and a private side to the site
- have signed photo releases for photo video galleries
- never include Scout names or private info on the public side of the site
- include the when & where about your meetings
- see very general BSA guidelines regarding council/district/unit websites at <http://councilspp.scouting.org/scoutsource/Webmasters/FAQ/guidelines.aspx>

e-mail:

- time-saving way to communicate to group
- be short and to the point with your message
- be periodic, your group will pay more attention if you do
- include your telephone number, open the door for interaction with those who don't feel comfortable replying by email alone
- don't “reply all” to engage the sender in a conversation
- don't use for time-sensitive communication, some people don't check email regularly