



BCS 108

Mining Internet Resources

Course Objectives



At the end of this training, a commissioner will be able to:

- **Recognize** resources with good information
- **Select** reliable websites
- **Know** internet resources for commissioners

The Role of Commissioners in Information Stewardship



- **Trusted Knowledge Hubs:**
Commissioners are the primary, most reliable source of vetted Scouting information for units.
- **Bridge Between National & Local:**
Commissioners translate national guidance into actionable local support, ensuring consistent messaging.
- **Stewards of Accuracy:** As stewards of integrity, commissioners validate and disseminate current, credible resources.



Finding Relevant & Credible Information



Start with Official Sources

Stick to trusted stuff like Scouting.org, official social media, and your council's site—less noise, more clarity.



Double-Check Before You Share

Make sure what you're passing on is up-to-date and not from a random blog post from 2014.



If in Doubt, Ask

Your council or another commissioner probably knows what's current.

Recognizing Good Information Sources



Follow the basic rules of thumb if conflicts arise:

- Official Scouting America websites over non-official ones
- Higher level Scouting America over lower level
- Forms and guides that link to the National Scouting America websites to access files



Find Trusted Information

- **Search Doesn't Equal Source:** Just because it shows up in a search doesn't mean it's right or current.
- **Too Much Noise:** Google gives you everything—official, unofficial, outdated, wrong. Sort wisely.
- **Go to the Source First:** Check official council or national pages before hitting the search bar.





Check Your Dates & Versions

Old Info = Bad Info

- **Outdated = Misleading:** Even good info can cause problems if it's from 5 years ago.
- **Revisions Happen Often:** Requirements, policies, and contact details get updated regularly.
- **Make It a Habit:** Always check the publish date or revision notes before sharing.



Social Media & Unofficial Sites



When Info Feels Right But Isn't



Lots of Opinions, Few Facts

Social media is full of good intentions—and bad info.



Unvetted = Unreliable

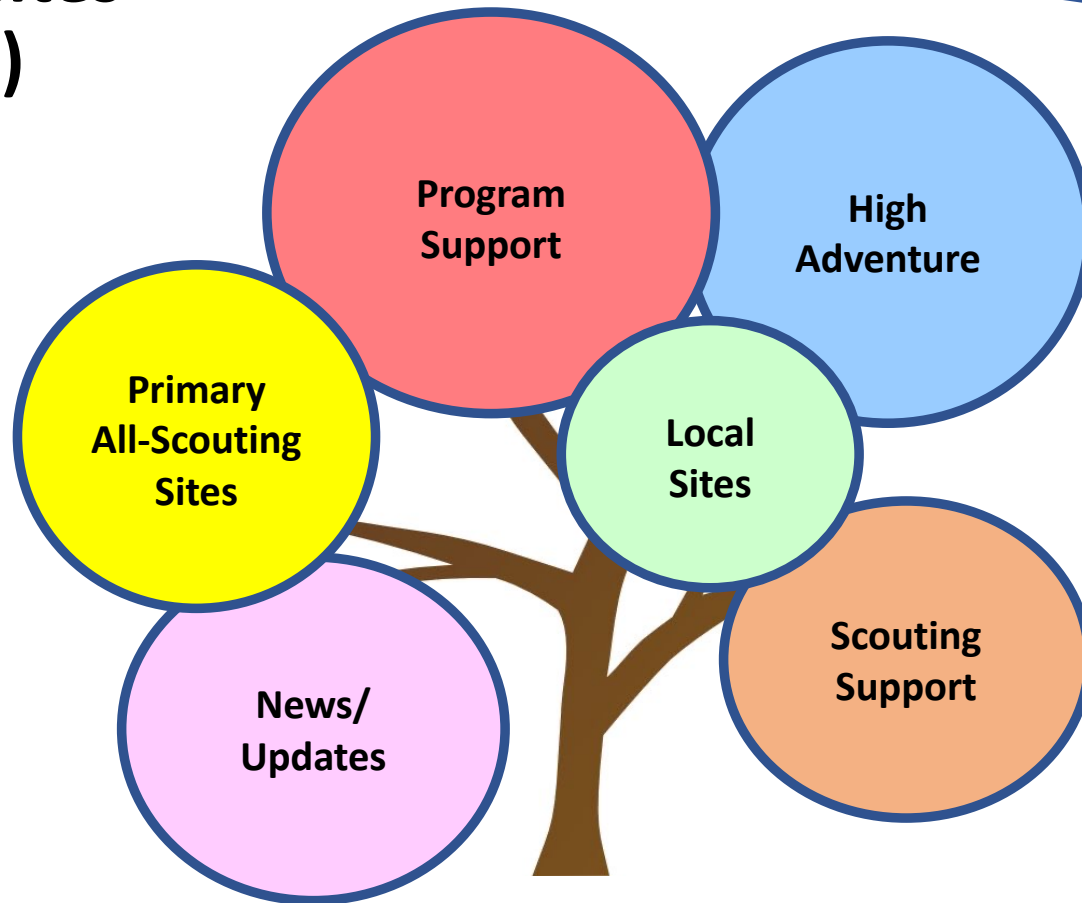
If it's not from official Scouting America sites or your council, verify before acting.



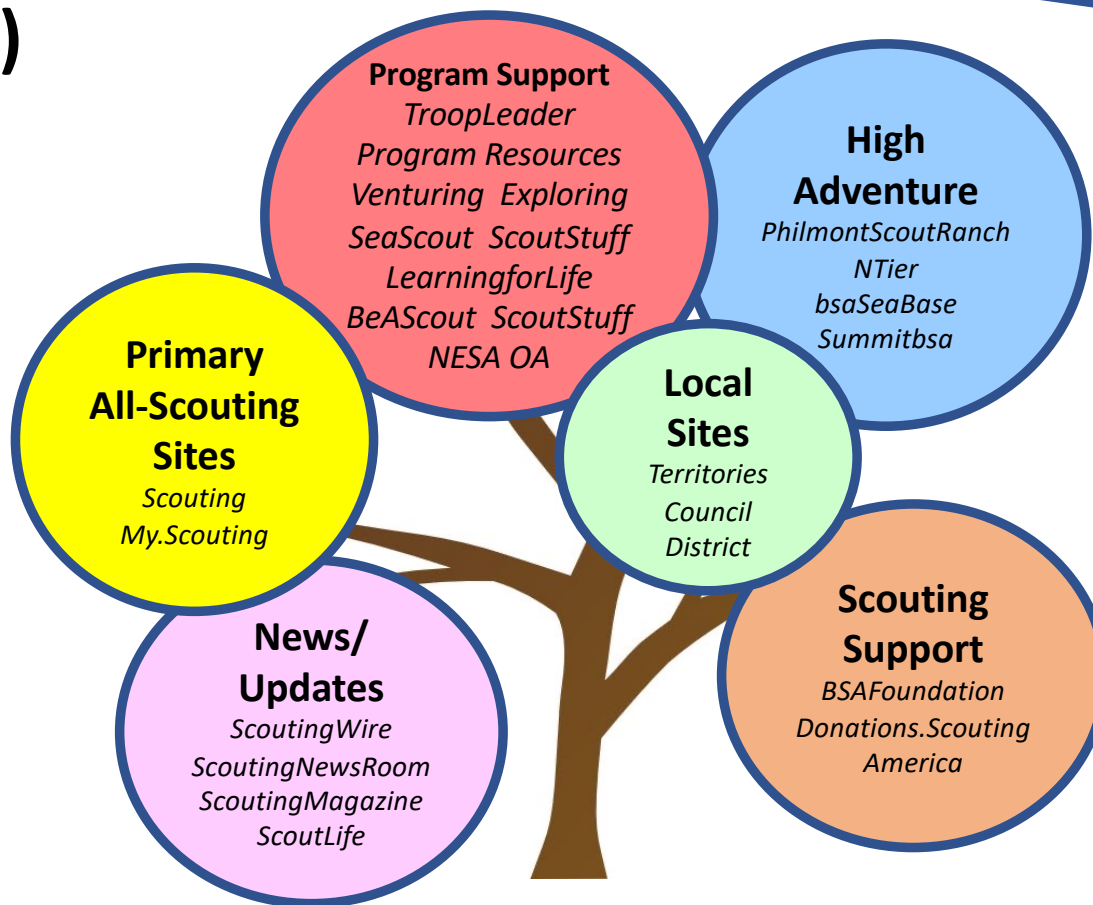
Train Your Filters

Learn to spot what's legit and teach others to do the same.

Official Scouting America Websites (www.site.org)



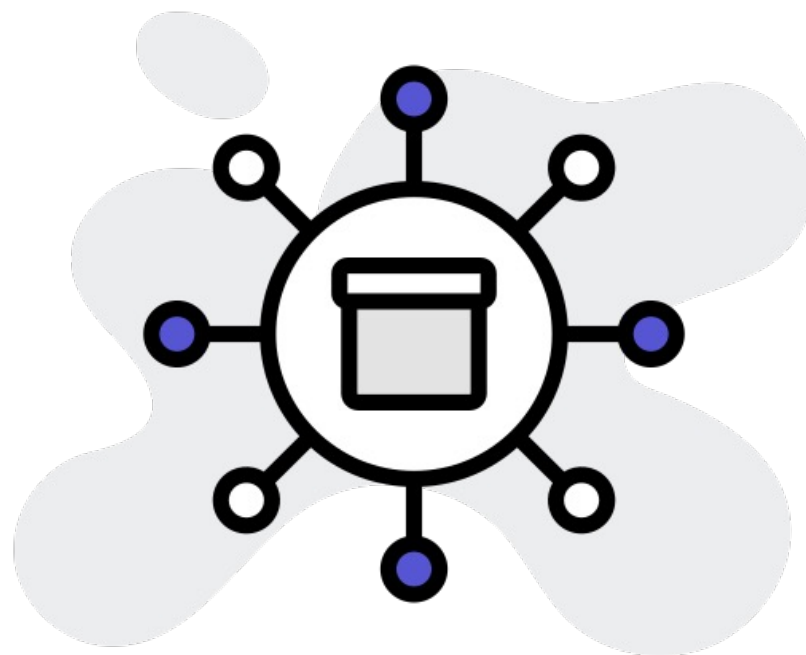
Official Scouting America Websites (www.site.org)



How Scouting Distributes Info



- **Official Channels First:** Email newsletters, printed guides, and official websites and social media carry the real updates, including bi-monthly “Commissioner eBlast”.
- **Council Communications:** Most councils have regular info blasts—subscribe and read them.
- **Print Still Matters:** Handbooks, brochures, and meeting packets are still info gold.



Scouting.org



Scouting Is Adventure, Family, Fun, Character, Leadership and So Much More!

In Scouting, boys and girls start with their best right now selves and grow into their very best future selves. It's fun, hands-on learning and achievement that puts kids in the middle of the action and prepares them for today – and for life.

Scout me in.



ZIP Code

Find Scouting Near You

www.Scouting.org



Shortcut Links

Find it fast by adding a forward slash “ / ” and your **topic** after www.scouting.org

Example: www.scouting.org/meritbadges

- Advancement
- Awards
- Commissioners
- Cub-scouts
- Venturing
- Forms
- ScoutsBSA
- Health-and-safety
- Training
- Youthprotection

News Sites



<http://scoutingwire.org/>

The screenshot shows the Scouting Wire website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS, PARENTS, BSA BRAND CENTER, MARKETING AND MEMBERSHIP HUB, SCOUTING NEWSROOM, and CONTACT US. The main header features the "SCOUTING WIRE" logo and the tagline "The Official Blog of the Scouting Movement". Below the header, there are two columns of news articles. The left column has a "Latest News" tab and lists articles such as "SAFE Project Tool Use" and "Scouting America Launches Scoutly AI Assistant". The right column features a large article titled "SAFE Project Tool Use" with a photo of a young person wearing safety glasses and holding a tool. At the bottom, there is a "Scouting Newsroom" section.

The screenshot shows the "AARON ON SCOUTING" website homepage. The title "AARON ON SCOUTING" is prominently displayed in large red letters. Below the title, it says "The Official Site of Scouting Magazine" and "For All Families and Scouting America Volunteers". A navigation bar includes links for HOME, CUB SCOUTING, SCOUTS BSA, VENTURING, SEA SCOUTING, FUN, CONTACT US, and DONATE TODAY. A "LATEST POSTS" section features five article teasers with images and text: "Check these new Scouting America TV spots and social media videos", "This could be the most important tool for keeping your Scouts BSA unit going strong", "In case you missed it: Every merit badge pamphlet is now available for free online", "The most important patch in Scouting might not be what you think", and "Here's how you can help send more Scouts to the National Jamboree". At the bottom, a green banner encourages users to "Get daily updates! Download the new Scouting magazine app today."

<http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/>



Bi-Monthly Newsletter



Commissioner Newsletter eBlast

www.Scouting.org/commissioners/newsletter-eblast

- Includes historical eblast back to February 2025



Scoutly



[Scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org) and [BeAScout.org](https://www.BeAScout.org)

**SCOUTING AMERICA
LAUNCHES SCOUTLY
AI ASSISTANT TO
REVOLUTIONIZE
SUPPORT FOR
FAMILIES AND
LEADERS**



Scouting.org Programs Tab



Scouting Programs

The Boy Scouts of America is one of the nation's largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations, providing programs for young people that build character.



Cub Scouting

Youth grades K-5



Scouts BSA

Youth 11-17 years old



Venturing

Co-ed 14-20 years old



Sea Scouting

Co-ed 14-20 years old



Exploring

Co-ed 10-20 years old



<https://www.scouting.org/>

Scouting Safety



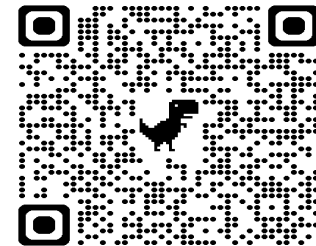
<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/>



Commissioner Information Central!



www.Scouting.org/commissioners



[Resource-Links-for-Commissioners.pdf](#)

My.Scouting.org



Tools Available

- Menu Page
- Commissioner Tools
- Training Manager
- Roster
- Unit Dashboard
- Application Manager
- Organization Manager

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEbezQiOaCE>

Stay on Top of Updates & Changes



Keep Your Info Fresh

- **Scouting Changes Fast:** From badge requirements to training policies, things shift all the time.
- **Use Update Alerts:** Subscribe to newsletters or set reminders to review key materials monthly.
- **Don't Be the Last to Know:** As a commissioner, you're expected to be one of the first to catch new changes.



Connect With Local Committees



You're Not In This Alone



Tap Into Local Know-How

Council and district committees are full of folks who've already solved your problem.



Bridge Gaps Locally

They help connect official info to real unit needs.



Grow Your Support Circle

The more people you know, the easier it is to verify and distribute info.

Council and District Committees



Your Local Information Powerhouse



Leaders in the Loop

These committees are often first to get key updates—use that to your advantage.



Policy Meets Reality

They help translate national guidance into local action.



Stay Active, Stay Informed

Showing up to meetings keeps you sharp and connected.



Wrap-Up: You Are the Information Leaders



Commissioners Set the Standard



Be the First, Be the Best
Know the facts and be the go-to for your units.



Trust But Verify
Even familiar info should be double-checked for updates.



Stay Connected
Use your network—committees, official sites—to stay sharp.



Course Summary



- **What is the difference between official and unofficial websites?**
- **What websites are you likely to use the most and why?**



**Questions?
Comments!**

