

Planning Your Next Den Meeting Just Got Easier

If you're a den leader, you're going to love the latest update to Scoutbook! The Boy Scouts of America's online tool for tracking Scouting advancement just rolled out a new update that's going to make it easier than ever for den leaders to prepare for and lead meetings, track advancement and attendance, and more.

Membership Card & Charter Certificate Printing

The Boy Scouts of America is committed to basic operations by putting tools in the hands of volunteers. For several years now, individuals and unit key 3 have had access to print membership cards through my.scouting. In addition, functionality will be added to my.scouting by January 1, 2019, to enable members of the unit key 3 to print their unit Charter Certificate.

This "self-service" functionality allows volunteers to print membership cards and the unit charter certificate in a timely manner and enhances the on-boarding experience for new youth and adults.

Units will need to print their membership cards and charter certificate, instructions for doing so are below.

How to print a membership card for an individual

How to print membership cards for a unit

Top 10 Scouts BSA Questions Answered

There's enthusiasm for the launch of Scouts BSA everywhere you look. Today, let's look at the top 10 Scouts BSA questions volunteers are asking.

Charter & Membership Processing Update

As many of you are already aware, membership registration has fallen behind due to an unexpected and prolonged situation leaving the Council Service Center short handed for several months. A solution through Registration Shared Services with the National Council is now in place and we are working feverishly with their help to get all membership entered. Because of the backlog, your District Executive might ask you for something that has already been submitted. Please understand it is our intention to get through the stack of papers without asking you for something twice but we may fail in this attempt. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience this has caused for all of our Scouts and units and look forward to the day we serve you with efficiency.

All future registrations can be emailed to: membership@mayflowerbsa.org.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Creating A Scouting Unit

Not every community, church, school, or organization has a Scouting pack, troop, or crew associated with it. Sometimes, starting a new group is the best way to bring Scouting to your community. With a willing group of volunteers and interested youth, it's easy to get Scouting started near you.

How Scouting Units Are Organized

Every Scouting unit requires adult leaders, youth, and a chartering organization. First the chartering organization agrees to adopt the Scouting program. Then you must recruit and train the leaders. Once you have trained leaders ready to start, recruit the youth. From there you can plan your program year, complete the paperwork, and hold your first meeting.

Resources:

- New Unit Organization Process
- New Unit Development
- BSA Fact Sheet

What is A Chartering Organization?

A chartering organization, such as a church, school, concerned citizen's group, agrees to work with the specific pack, troop, or crew. They'll provide meeting space, help find and approve adult leaders, and appoint an individual as the Chartered

Organization Representative. This representative works as a liaison between the organization and the Scout group.

Any organization can be a chartering organization and there are no special qualifications. The chartering organization falls under the insurance of the Boy Scouts of America.

Resources:

- Chartered Organizations Resource Guide
- The Charter Organization (tri-fold)
- The Chartered Organization Representative
- The Charter Organization Representative Guidebook

What Leaders Are Needed?

There are different leader requirements for different types of Scouting units. All units must have a Chartered Organization Representative. If a single organization sponsors more than one unit (like a Pack and a Troop), that representative must be the same person for both units.

For a Pack you need:

- Cubmaster (plan and lead the monthly pack meeting, keeping the youth and families engaged and excited)
- Committee Chair (lead behind the scenes administrative tasks and support efforts to run the pack)
- Chartered Organization Representative (act as a liaison between the pack and chartering organization)
- Two Committee Members (work with the committee chair to run the pack in roles like treasurer or secretary)
- Den Leader (plan and lead the den meetings for one age group, helping the youth earn advancements)
- Not required but recommended: Assistant Cubmaster(s), Assistant Den Leader(s), additional committee members

For a Troop you need:

- Scoutmaster (support and guide the youth leadership as they plan and lead the troop meetings)
- Committee Chair (lead behind the scenes administrative tasks and support efforts to run the troop)
- Chartered Organization Representative (act as a liaison between the troop and chartering organization)
- Two Committee Members (work with the committee chair to run the troop in roles like treasurer or secretary)
- Not required but recommended: Assistant Scoutmaster(s), additional committee members

For a Crew you need:

- Advisor (support and guide the youth leadership as they plan and lead the crew meetings)
- Committee Chair (lead behind the scenes administrative tasks and support efforts to run the crew)
- Chartered Organization Representative (act as a liaison between the crew and chartering organization)
- Two Committee Members (work with the committee chair to run the crew in roles like treasurer or secretary)
- Not required but recommended: Associate Advisor(s), additional committee members

What Paperwork Needs to Be Filled Out?

For a new unit, you'll need to turn in a new unit application, a signed charter organization agreement, and applications for every adult leader and youth member.

You get to pick your unit number, but we can't guarantee that every number is available. Don't get your hopes up about being Troop 123 without first checking to see if that unit already exists!

Resources:

- New Unit Application
- Annual Unit Charter Agreement

- Youth Application
- Adult Application

William D. Boyce New Unit Organizer Award

Organizing a new unit can be hard work, between corralling people and filling out the paperwork. To recognize the volunteers who have dedicated their time and energy to expanding Scouting to new communities, we give out the William D. Boyce New Unit Organizer Award. William D. Boyce was the founder of Boy Scouts in America – he learned about Scouting in England and organized the first ever Scouting units here. In his honor, you'll receive a certificate and a knot to wear on your uniform.

Resources:

- William D. Boyce New Unit Organizer Award Info & Application

Want to Get Started?

Contact your district executive or district membership team and they'll get you started on your journey!

Here's how to welcome girls into Scouts BSA

Use These Guidelines to Help You Know the Right Way to Refer to Scouts BSA and the Girls Who Will Join

Boy Scout/Venturing Peer Recruiting Drawing

MORE FUN WITH FRIENDS – NOVEMBER PEER-TO-PEER RECRUITMENT DRAWING

Scouting is even more enjoyable when Scouts can participate with their friends. This is designed to encourage Scouts to bring in new membership by inviting their friends to participate in what the Scouting program has to offer.

Scouts who successfully recruit a friend to join Scouting in November will have a chance to win one of these great prizes:



GRAND PRIZE

Discovery WiFi Drone

One Prize Winner



SECOND PRIZE

Sennheiser Wireless Headphones

Two Prize Winners



THIRD PRIZE

UF0 Quadcopter Drone with LED Lights

Three Prize Winners

Both the Scout and the new member recruited will receive a prize. Contest is open to Boy Scouts and Venturing.

Here's How It Works:

- Scout invites a friend to “check-out” Scouting and

attend a meeting or event

- Friend joins a Scouting unit and completes an application
- Application and applicable fees are turned into council service center and online entry form is completed
- Scout is entered into the prize drawing. The more friends a Scout recruits, the more chances to win!
- Scout is eligible to wear the Recruiter Strip on their uniform – First one free with an entry during the campaign. Normally available for \$1.79 w/tax at the Scout Shop.
- Be a Salesman for Scouting: Recruit new members with a personal invitation!

To help entice potential new Scouts to join your unit, give your current Scouts Bring-A-Buddy cards to hand out to their friends and classmates. Bring-A-Buddy cards are available to download below. Include event date, time, place, and contact information.

Bring-A-Buddy Cards

Troop and crews are encouraged to hold events, parties, ice cream socials, etc. where they invite a friend to join them and give their friends a taste of Scouting!

Scouts BSA Marketing Assets Are Available Now

Scouts BSA tools and assets are available to help you create awareness and interest among youth and adults.

How to Offer Families a Second Chance to Join

There are a variety of ways to help families join who may have missed the sign-up night. Here are a few strategies.

How This Webelos Den Leader Is Welcoming Girls

“I’m back at it and loving every minute of it,” she says.