

A Scout is Helpful: Session Explains Scoutbook

The Mayflower Council looks to help leaders open Scoutbook on January 31...

Scouts BSA may have been born in 1910, but the current program is a little more contemporary vintage. And since a Scout is brave, Scouting continues to march into the digital landscape.

For example, did you know that Scoutbook is the BSA's online tracking service?

Scouting.org explains:

From the first knot tied to the final hours of service performed, the Scouting experience is a journey like none other. And Scoutbook is your go-to tool to ensure not a moment is missed – tracking advancement, milestone achievements, and all the fun along the way.

Okay, okay. You're familiar with Scoutbook. But maybe you are just a bit unsure of how to use the online module. Or perhaps you are just a bit technologically averse.

The Mayflower Council has a solution.

Mayflower Council Scoutbook Training: January 31, 7:00 to 8:30 PM

Does your unit use Scoutbook, or are you wondering how to get going with it? This session will cover a basic overview and ways to begin using it.

Topics like how to log in and how leaders sign off on requirements will be covered. Please join us with your questions and come away with an understanding of how this tool

can benefit the scouts and leaders in your unit.

So, Zoom in on Scoutbook!

Register in advance:

[Register Now](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Scouting for Inspiration: Hannah Holmes

One year ago, this Scout became the first girl to earn all of Scouts BSA's 137 merit badges.

Each week at troop meetings around the country, scouts do amazing things. However, sometimes a Scout does something so unique, unprecedented, that ABC News calls.

One such accomplishment occurred last year, when a home-schooled lone scout from near Orlando, Florida, earned all 137 Scouts BSA merit badges. That's right, Hannah Holmes, an eventual Eagle Scout, became the first girl in the then 110-year history of The Boy Scouts of America to earn all of the possible merit badges available, a feat only 500 boys accomplished in the history of the Scouting movement in the United States.

When the news media caught wind of the accomplishment, they asked Hannah about filling her sash with stitching.

"My last badge was white water rafting," she told ABC news.

“And it was kind of a bittersweet victory.”

“After accomplishing my goal, I was happy,” she explained. “But at the same time, I had so many good memories I didn’t want it to end.”

Meanwhile, Hannah encouraged others to pursue their goals, especially her fellow girls in Scouts BSA.

“When the going gets tough, it’s important to persevere,” said Hannah. “It’s all going to be worth it in the end.”

However, there’s no end in sight for Hannah. With numerous speaking engagements under her BSA belt and a head start on college, Holmes intends to earn a political science degree en route to a career in the U.S. Senate.

Finally, for more on girls in Scouts BSA, visit about.scouting.org/girls-in-scouts-bsa/

Then, check out Hannah’s interview with ABC.

15 Year Old Florida Girl Makes History Earning All Boy Scout Merit Badges

Scouts Honor: Maxwell S Troop 47 Randolph

Stecker’s Eagle Scout service project revitalized birdhouses at Powers Farm Community Park

This week Mayflower Council recognizes the efforts of **Maxwell S of Troop 47, Randolph, Massachusetts.**

As a Life Scout participating in Scouts BSA’s inclusion

program, Maxwell – a 21-year-old special needs student at May Center – completed his Eagle Scout service project in December.

Maxwell worked to renovate “living accommodations for some of the winged inhabitants of Powers Farm Community Park.”

On January 3, *The Journal & Sun* explained:

As a previous Eagle Scout project... bird and bat houses were placed at Powers Farm, but over time the birdhouses had deteriorated. With the mentoring of Scoutmaster Henry Colageo, Maxwell improved upon the design to make them more durable by using cedarwood, which is more weatherproof, and brass hardware.

Work in the park remains a labor of love for Troop 47, and Maxwell’s efforts were bolstered by his fellow Scouts and adult Scouters.

“With guidance from Maxwell and the troop’s adult leaders, on Nov. 8 the Scouts fabricated the required parts and assembled them,” added the *Journal & Sun*. “Finally, on Dec. 4, the Scouts removed the old birdhouses and installed new ones.”

Maxwell is just one of the terrific Scouts in the Mayflower Council doing amazing things. Do you know a member of our community who deserves recognition in “Scouts Honor”?

Email us with your suggestions!

Covid Modified Requirements

Ending March 1

As of March 01, 2022, all temporary changes made to Scouts BSA advancement requirements to address the COVID-19 pandemic will expire, and there will be a return to the standard rules for Scouts BSA advancement. This includes deferment of some swimming requirements for First and Second class, virtual activities for Tenderfoot, Second and First Class, and requirement 9b of the Camping merit badge.

As always, the BSA's top priority is the health and safety of all youth participating in BSA programs. In 2020, the BSA instituted several modifications to rank requirements and merit badge requirements ("advancement modifications") to accommodate activity restrictions necessitated by COVID-19. Effective March 01, 2022, those modifications will be removed, and the standard rules for advancement and merit badges will again become effective. These requirements are published at www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/ and in the Requirements Guidebook.

Specifically, these modifications related to the swimming requirements for Second and First class ranks, virtual activities for Tenderfoot, Second and First Class, and requirement 9b of the Camping merit badge.

The Guide to Advancement, section 10.2.2.0, states that "Members must meet current advancement requirements as written for merit badges, all ranks, and Eagle Palms—no more and no less—and they are to do exactly what is stated."

New BSA Merit Badge: Citizenship In Society

New badge to be an Eagle requirement beginning July 2022

The Boy Scouts of America recently introduced a new merit badge to the list of achievements offered to youth in Scouts BSA.

The “Citizenship in Society” merit badge seeks to encourage Scouts to delve into the meaning of “diversity, equity, inclusion, and ethical leadership.”

“The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law,” said Roger Mosby, president and chief executive officer of The Boy Scouts of America to *ScoutingNewsroom.org*.

“This merit badge aligns with both the Scout Oath and Scout Law, which encourage Scouts to respect the beliefs of others, to be kind and courteous, and to help other people at all times,” added BSA’s president.

“Diversity, equity, and inclusion,” sometimes called DEI, remains an important topic in institutions across the United States and is now a worthy conversation piece in Troop Meetings. That’s especially so because the achievement will be required for Eagle Scouts beginning in July 2022.

“The Citizenship in Society merit badge is an important initiative to help Scouts learn about the diverse identities we each possess, understand different perspectives and experiences, and promote good citizenship in society,” explained Elizabeth Ramirez-Washka, chief diversity officer and vice president of diversity & inclusion, Boy Scouts of

America.

You can learn more about this new opportunity by visiting www.scouting.org/dei. Scouters may also take the “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Scouting” course via Scoutbook’s online training catalog.

“[I] enjoyed getting to discuss diversity and inclusion topics with my friends in Scouting,” Maya, a 15-year-old Scout who participated in the pilot program told *Scouting Newsroom*. “It felt like a safe environment to be open and honest about these topics.”

Meanwhile, check out this video by YouTube’s “Scouter Stan,” which gives an overview of the new BSA initiative and the Citizenship in Society merit badge.

“Scouter Stan” Video

What is a Unit Key 3?

Unit Key 3

Behind every great Scouting unit is a committed Key 3. These are the three top adult individuals within each pack, troop, crew, or ship. Each member of the Key 3 needs to understand his or her role and feel empowered to serve.

The Unit Key 3 is a critical component to the success of the unit. The unit Key 3 consists of:

- **Committee Chair** – The top volunteer in the unit is the Committee Chair. They are responsible for ensuring enough qualified adult volunteers are in place to provide the program. They lead the unit committee meetings.
- **Unit Leader** – The leader of the unit meeting is the unit leader (Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Crew Advisor, Skipper) and is responsible for developing and delivering the “program.”
- **Chartered Organization Representative (COR)** – This person appoints the unit committee chair and approves all adult leaders. They provide resources from the chartered organization.

The Key 3 addresses unit challenges, checks on Journey to Excellence status, and adjusts program and administrative elements to ensure unit progress toward Journey to Excellence.

Role of the Unit Key 3

- **This group meets frequently** to discuss the unit, its challenges, coming events, and progress toward completing their action plan and Journey to Excellence goals.
- **Ensures that a monthly program and unit budget plan are in place and on track.** These items are critical for unit success. Encourage long-range planning for a positive experience for all.
- **Support systems that will ensure a well-organized unit are:** the monthly Unit Key 3 meeting, monthly committee and leader meetings, and regular parent meetings.

- **Encourages a unit-wide communication system.** Communication takes many forms: newsletter, phone tree, email, website, app. Whatever fits the unit.
- **Encourages training of all registered adults in the unit.** Encourages them to take This Is Scouting and Leader Specific Training for their position prior to their first meeting. Vigorously enforces Youth Protection Training. Makes sure the adult leaders are aware of training opportunities. Through the district commissioner, enlists the help of the training team to bring adult leader training to the unit if necessary.
- **Helps unit leaders get additional training as needed.** Through the unit and district commissioners, requests progressive specialty training as needed. Topics might include recruiting youth members, information on Friends of Scouting, advancement, etc. While it is the responsibility of the district committee, it may be necessary to conduct sections of this training at the unit level.
- **Encourages participation in district activities.** Encourages attendance at roundtable, district activities, and camping opportunities. Keeps the district and council calendars in mind when helping the Unit Key 3 schedule unit meetings and events.

My.Scouting.org – Accomplish A Wide Variety of Things

You can use My.Scouting.org for a wide variety of things. Parents can use it to transfer their Scout from one unit to another (how-to PDF), such as when a Webelos moves from a pack to a troop. Adult leaders can use it to take position-specific training. The Key 3 can use it to accept online applications and must use it to complete the annual rechartering of their unit.

In addition to these functions, this portal provides all adults access to their personal account data, a place to update contact information, and...yes, the ability to complete YPT. Make sure your My.Scouting.org profile contains your BSA member ID number; that way, your training record will automatically update when you finish an online course. BSA member ID numbers do not transfer from one council to another, but you can include both in your profile if you have IDs from multiple councils.

When setting up a My.Scouting.org account, be sure to link it to your Mayflower Council BSA member ID number. Forgot your ID number, your username or your password? Not sure if you have a member ID number or a My.Scouting.org account? Contact the Membership & Unit Service Team (membership@mayflowerbsa.org) before you create a new account– we can check to see if you have a member ID number, provide your username, and reset your password.

In the “BSA Web Links” section of My.Scouting.org (under “Menu”), you’ll also find links to Internet Advancement, the National Safety Council Defensive Driving Course, and Service Hours Reporting. Unit leaders have access to their unit roster and other information designed to help in managing the unit.

One last note: depending on the leadership position for which you are registered, you may not see every tool that someone else has available on their dashboard. So, it’s important that when your unit recharter at the end of each year, they accurately record your leadership position.

If you have trouble logging in to My.Scouting.org, contact Office Manager Lisa Olson for assistance.

Scoutbook

Scoutbook is an advancement tracking tool. From the first knot tied to final hours of service performed, the Scouting

experience is a journey like none other. And Scoutbook is your go-to tool to ensure not a moment is missed – tracking advancement, milestone achievements and all the fun along the way. It also has messaging, help forums, service, hiking, camping tracking and calendaring features.

Important Reminders for Scoutbook:

- Adding or transferring a scout or adult to your unit's Scoutbook account does not register them with your unit and doesn't mean they have a valid membership. All Scouts and adult leaders must complete an application, either online or submit a paper (or PDF version) of the application. This is true whether a person is new to Scouting, changing from one pack, troop or crew to another, or even changing adult leader positions.
- Once an application is processed, the individual should appear in your unit's Scoutbook in approximately 24-48 hours. Wait for this sync to occur, instead of manually adding anyone.
- Scoutbook doesn't allow duplicate emails, so the same email address can't be used for two accounts.
- Your Scoutbook login is the same as your My.Scouting.org login. If you aren't sure if you have a login, you can't remember your login, need a password reset or you're getting an error, contact Office Manager Lisa Olson.
- Scoutbook Guide: help.scoutbook.scouting.org
- Scouting Forums: discussions.scouting.org

Blue Cards Shouldn't Make You

“Blue”

Merit badges are more than learning skills. They are about Scouts exploring an interest, engaging in discussions, and being recognized. When conducted properly, the merit badge process incorporates all eight of the methods of Scouting.

The MB process has been updated slightly in the new Guide to Advancement. The 2021 edition recognizes that technological advances can provide many benefits, but the overall process is unchanged and the blue card can play an important role. Alternatives to the blue card may be accepted, as long as they include the necessary information. If electronic record-keeping methods do not encompass all the steps, blue cards may be used in addition. Most importantly, a Scout should always have a permanent, hardcopy record of his or her work.

To reiterate, whether or not blue cards are included, the complete merit badge process must be followed, starting with an initial discussion between the Scout and the unit leader about the specific merit badge. The Scoutmaster (or their designee) provides advice and guidance, maybe suggesting that the Scout would get more out of the badge if they waited, or after they finished another activity. However, it is ultimately the Scout's decision to work on a particular merit badge at a particular time.

“Since blue cards support the merit badge process as it is intended to function, the Guide to Advancement continues to reference and recommend them. It is expected that when blue cards are not used, advancement administrators at all levels will find ways to carry on the processes, interactions, documentation, and other nuances that make the process such a critical element in BSA mission achievement.”

for Merit Badge (“Blue Card”)

During that initial conversation the unit leader should provide contact information for at least one council approved merit badge counselor. However, if the Scout has one already in mind, they must be allowed to work with the registered and approved counselor of their choice. This initial meeting is integral to the merit badge process, and as such should be documented by the leader signing the blue card, or by other means.

The Scout next contacts the merit badge counselor, following all Youth Protection Training guidelines, and begins the process of completing the requirements. The counselor can consider work done at any time after the Scout was a registered Scouts BSA member, as long as the Scout actually and personally completed the requirement, **as written**.

As the Scout completes requirements, the merit badge counselor documents each by initialing and dating the spaces on the blue card, or other method. **These “partial” completions do not expire until the Scout’s 18th birthday.** The Scout may choose to finish the merit badge with a different counselor, who should accept the previous counselor’s certification of any requirements completed.

When all requirements are complete, the counselor records that information on the blue card, and/or by electronic means. The counselor should retain the “Counselor’s Record” portion of the blue card for at least one year, in case questions arise.

After all requirements are completed and approved by the counselor, the Scout shows the evidence of completion to the unit leader, who initiates a discussion on how it went, but **does not retest the Scout**. The unit leader documents this discussion as well, then the troop reports the completion to council and presents the Scout with the merit badge.

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counselor, the Scout shows the evidence of completion to the unit leader, who initiates a discussion on how it went, but does not retest the Scout. The unit leader documents this discussion as well, then the troop reports the completion to council and presents the Scout with the merit badge.

Cub Scouts The 3 R's: Recruit, Recruit & Retain

Of the six programs the BSA offers, typically over 50% of registered youth are in the Cub Scout program. Annually, we recruit more first graders to be Tigers than any other age group across all programs. In 2020, many units were unable or chose not to recruit in their communities. As a result, youth membership in the BSA plummeted.

It is time for a reset this fall, so everyone is being asked to focus on membership recruitment. As critical as that effort will be, data tells us that in a typical year we have had a problem with keeping them in the program. Voice of the Scout surveys have told us that families leave because of a poor den experience.

Dens are where the action happens, it's where we conduct activities in the form of the Adventure program. Den leaders are well meaning adults who volunteered to guide a bunch of kids through a series of activities to reach the goal of completing an Adventure. Our volunteer den leaders like to have a playbook from which to draw and know what to do when holding a den meeting. They want to know what they should be

doing with the youth and how to get it done. Our den leaders are not child development experts, they are parents and adults who volunteer. At the beginning of each program year, our den leaders and Cub Scouts are both stepping into the great unknown.

Advancement is how we deliver our program and measure the outcome, but advancement is not the end goal: it is a method for running a den meeting. Advancement should not define the activities to be completed; activities should lead to advancement. Cub Scouts do not have the developmental understanding of why they must complete certain requirements to "advance." They came to the meeting to have a good time and do something fun. Typically, that's all the Cub Scout cares about.

On the way home from a den meeting, Cub Scouts should be able to tell their families that they had FUN. They should be able to describe the meeting with glee and excitement and a need to return. If a Cub Scout looks out the car window and says, "That was boring," chances are he or she will not be back to the next den meeting or register for another program year.

Our challenge is to be sure den leaders are aware of the many resources available to help our leaders provide the best program possible; each and every meeting. Let's re-set and focus on member experiences that shine and provide great fun and adventures.

BSA resources available to provide the best Cub Scout experience for new membership – youth and adult.

Cub Scouting
Cub Chat Live!
Den Leader Resources
Adult Leader Training

Cub Scout & Scouts BSA Yo-Yo Programs

Completing the Cub Scout Yo-Yo Preview Adventure and finding fun recruitment giveaways just got a lot easier. Order customized Yo-Yos, choosing your color and adding a logo, or purchase case packs of 12 Yo-Yos, perfect for making sure a den has everything they need for the Yo-Yo Preview Adventure. Duncan also offers the Yo-Yo Teen Program for Scouts BSA to fine-tune their tricks and earn patches long the way.

Cub Scout Yo-Yo Preview Adventure
Scouts BSA Yo-Yo Program

Scouting with Special Needs: The ISAP & the IEP

What is the difference between an Individual Scout Advancement Plan (ISAP) and an Individualized Education Program (IEP)? An IEP is a legal document under United States law. It is developed by a team of school personnel familiar with the student, their parent/guardian, and, as applicable, the student themselves. There are legal consequences if any part of the contract is not followed. The ISAP, on the other hand, is not legally binding and should not be viewed as such. An ISAP is developed by the BSA leadership familiar with the Scout, their parent/guardian, and, as applicable, the Scout themselves.

An ISAP should be only about four pages in length, and it should address the specific items listed on the ISAP form and in the Guide to Advancement.

Can the Scout's IEP be used to develop an alternative plan needed for the Scout's success? The two documents are not interchangeable. Some of the information and supports contained in the IEP may help to develop the Scout's ISAP. Some of the services provided to the child at school may help the Scout when working on rank requirements. But it is important to include only the relevant portions. Those who work with Scouts with special needs and are familiar with IEPs can help to develop the Scout's ISAP. Please contact your district advancement chair for assistance.