
Web Policy for Troop 42

This policy has been developed to guide the development and evolution of the BSA Troop 42 Web site (www.bsatroop42.org). This policy is intended to be based on common sense, committed to maintaining Scouting's positive image, and to upholding the BSA's high standards for youth protection and member privacy.

BSA Requirements for Council Pages

- The council must have direct control over the content of its official Web site.
- The content of the site must be appropriate to the Scouting movement.
- The site cannot contain any advertisements or commercial endorsements.
- The site cannot engage in the electronic sale of BSA Supply Division merchandise or competing products.
- The site cannot contain links to any sites that contain material that is not appropriate to the Scouting movement.
- The site cannot replicate any BSA publication currently for sale through the Supply Division.
- Sites must abide by all laws regarding copyrights, trademarks, and other intellectual property.
- Sites must consider the safety and privacy of their participants by obtaining the necessary permissions to release information about or images of any individual.

BSA Guidance for Unit Web Sites

Advice for personal and unit Web sites

While units and members act as private individuals when communicating with the public, the National Council provides the following advice for those who use the Internet to promote and support their units or to communicate to the public about Scouting:

- **Decorum**

Scouters should exercise propriety and good taste. Remember that the Internet (including Web sites, chat rooms, bulletin boards, and even e-mail messages) is a public medium. Your conduct reflects not only on yourself and your unit, but also on the entire Scouting movement whenever the audience knows you are a Scouter.
- **Personal Safety**

While most Internet users are honest, there is a criminal element that seeks information as a way to gain access to victims. For that reason, be especially careful about providing any personal information—names, images, e-mail addresses, phone numbers, etc. Always ask permission before posting personal information about adult volunteers, and never publish personal information about youth members.
- **Legal Issues**

Myriad federal and state laws govern publishing in any medium, including the Internet—copyright infringement, privacy of information, defamation, etc. You should familiarize yourself with these laws so you can ensure that the information you publish doesn't create any legal problems for you or your chartered organization. Key among these legal issues are that (1) you should never collect personal information about youth members over the Internet, and (2) you should never reproduce or display on your Web sites content from some other source without written permission.

- **BSA Policies and Procedures**

All policies and procedures that apply to any activity are still in effect when that activity is conducted on the Internet. For example, any online recruiting must be done in accordance with policies and procedures that govern offline recruiting.

In addition to these general guidelines, local councils may develop their own more detailed guidelines for unit Web sites. Local councils may require units to meet council guidelines for their sites to be recognized (linked) from the local council's own Web site.

Troop 42 Web Site Policy

General Member Privacy

- **No Home Addresses**

The home address of Youth or Adult members will never be used.

- **Pictures**

Pictures showing Youth and/or Adults involved in Scouting activities may be used as long as no names or other personal information are associated with the picture.

Youth Protection

- **Youth Member Names**

Full names of youth members will not be used. First name is permissible.

- **No Youth Contact Info**

Contact information for youth (phone, email or address) will not be listed.

Adult Contact Information

- **Adult Unit Leaders**

- Prospective members must be able to contact Units.
- As this is a responsibility of the Unit Leader, "Implied Consent" is given to disclose the leader's name and phone number to persons seeking info about that specific unit.
- Any Unit Leader who prefers alternate contact info (email or other phone number), or does not want to be listed must notify the Troop webmaster.

- **No Leader Lists**

While an individual can be shown as a unit contact, **lists** of leaders will not be publicly available.

- **Other Adult Contacts**

Written permission must be obtained from other Adults before publicly listing their names and contact info.

- **Is it necessary for this to be PUBLIC?**

Where **Public** contact information is not necessary - names and contact info will be kept private to the Scouting community or units (see Private Information below).

No Advertisements

To elaborate on "*The site cannot contain any advertisements or commercial endorsements*" BSA rule above:

- **No Third-Party Ads**

The site will not use a host which requires 3rd-party advertisements. These are commercial endorsements, and often contain material which is inappropriate to a Scouting site.

Appropriate Material

- **Outside Links**

The site may contain links to other sites dedicated to scouting or other helpful information.

The site will not contain links to individual's home pages.

Approval of site and content on the site

- **Committee and Chartering Organization Approval**

The site must be approved by the Unit's Committee and Chartering Organization

- **Registered Adult Supervision**

Web pages may be developed by Scouts, but must be under the supervision of a registered adult.

Private Information

BSA Troop 42's web site will contain information which is not publicly available. This information will be kept private through the use of password-protected access.