



## Welcome to the Scouts BSA Troop 959 Advancement Blog for Families!

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While advancement (earning ranks, merit badges, and awards) is just one piece of the Scouting program, our mutual goal is to encourage your Scout to advance in the program in ways that are FUN, REWARDING, and a natural outcome of their participation. We also want them to do this in a way that helps them all take more and more ownership of their own progress.

Scouts progress more steadily, stay involved longer, and see more benefits if their families are informed, engaged, and supportive. To help everyone out, we're providing a series of [four weekly blog posts](#) to let you know small ways you can become more involved in your Scout's experience, particularly through using Scoutbook and the Scouting app to facilitate that.

We would also love to have you become more involved in the troop! Let any Scouter (adult leader) know if you have questions or ideas to share, how you might like to contribute to the troop's success, and what you find helpful or want to know more about. We're here to help!

Read on for the first installment!

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T959 Advancement Chair  
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***The...Patrol Leader will...find that the requirements are not something separate from Scouting. On the contrary, Scouting is the Requirements. When you go hiking and camping, the subjects contained in the requirements come up all the time. With plenty of Scouting work before them, your [Scouts] simply cannot help advancing.***

— William "Green Bar Bill" Hillcourt, *Handbook for Patrol Leaders*

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## Using Scoutbook to Support Your Scout



Whether Scout, parent, or adult Scouter, one thing we all treasure about Scouting is how hands-on it is. Outdoors! Making stuff! Learning skills! Having fun! Very little about Scouting happens while looking at a screen. Except for one handy tool...Scoutbook.

[Scoutbook.com](https://scoutbook.com) is a centralized, easy-to-use website that our troop uses to

- communicate with families about upcoming meetings, outings, and events;
- collect RSVPs for activities so the Scouts can plan effectively;
- keep a record of the troop's patrols and Scouts' leadership positions;
- log\* Scouts' camping, hiking, and volunteer service; and
- track each Scout's advancement toward ranks\*, merit badges, and awards.

With all that capability, you can see why it's worth spending some time to log in, make sure your Scout's profile information is current (yours, too!), check out the troop calendar, and poke around a bit.

\* The official record is always a Scout's personal handbook. Scoutbook helps us formally record each Scout's progress with our council and the national organization.

## How to log in to Scoutbook

If you have used Scoutbook already in Scouting or completed a troop application for your child online through [My.Scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org), log in to Scoutbook just as you have before.

If you're new to Scouting or Scoutbook, make sure we have your preferred email address so we can create an account for you and send you the link to log in using a temporary password. You will then be able to set up your account and see your child's profile.



If you completed your child's troop application online, have taken Youth Protection Training or other volunteer training, or know you have an account on [My.Scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org), be sure to use the *exact same* login and password when using Scoutbook, as these two sites now share Single Sign-on (SSO) capabilities.

Once you can log in to Scoutbook and see your child's profile, please do the following:

- Make sure all contact information is correct in your family's profile.
- Visit **Upcoming Events** to see what's coming up. Click **Subscribe** (next to Troop 959 B below the monthly calendar) to link the Troop calendar with any online calendars your family may use.
- Take a look at your Scout's profile and enjoy poking around. Even better, do all this with your Scout! (Please don't mark any requirements as completed just yet...we'll get to that in another blog.)

While most tools a Scout needs can fit nicely in a day pack, you'll find that this useful one can fit right in a pocket.

*Next week's topic: Advancement Philosophy and Inviting Your Scout to Use Scoutbook*

Explore Scoutbook

Thanks for reading, and please let us know if you have any questions! We would love to have your support and enthusiasm in working with the Scouts or on our committee! Should you be able to take on a role—big or small—to help sustain the troop, please email us at [info@troop959.com](mailto:info@troop959.com).

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