



## Part 2: Scouts BSA Troop 959 Advancement Blog for Families!

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### Philosophy of Advancement: Why & How to Invite Your Scout to Join Scoutbook

A key feature of Scouting is that troops are *Scout led*. Together, the Scouts set goals, plan and experience campouts, carry out service projects, and so on. They learn a lot from this process—both through their successes and their mistakes. The focus is on the whole experience as, together, they learn, practice, and really *use* different skills and concepts.

While Scouts benefit greatly from parental and Scouter support and engagement, their individual experience should *also* be Scout led. This *Advancement News* excerpt explains the philosophy well as this relates to progressing through the ranks:

*Scout advancement [is] a continual process; it's not a "program" that has a fixed beginning and end. [It] is a stepping-stone process.... This design is intentional and built on the foundation of self-motivation by each Scout with the support of the troop and its activity program.*

*Each Scout makes a personal decision on advancement, based on their "motivation quotient." Happily, advancement isn't a "race"—in Scouting, advancement is designed ...so that any Scout...can take it as far as they desire. Advancement is about the journey, and the end-goal is the complete prerogative of the traveler along this trail.<sup>1</sup>*

Some Scouts are all-in with learning as many skills as the troop and the handbook can teach them. Some are motivated by the charts in the back of the handbook and eager to advance through the ranks all the way to Eagle. Others find the fun of monthly outings and summer camp the most rewarding part and are not concerned with which badge is on their shirt.

As long as they're growing in the aims of Scouting and learning to make the Scout oath and law part of their personal compass, taking different approaches to the experience is perfectly acceptable...and important!



No matter the approach, advancement will result from participating in a well-designed program; advancing has a lot of benefits but is not, itself, the goal. We aim to offer a program in which each Scout can determine and meet his personal goals while having a lot of fun. We invite you to join us to help support this mission!

### Where does Scoutbook come in?

Scoutbook supports Scouts' advancement by showing them all they're accomplishing as well as ideas of things they can be working on now and may want to work on in the future. You and your Scout are always welcome and encouraged to look at Scoutbook together using your login.

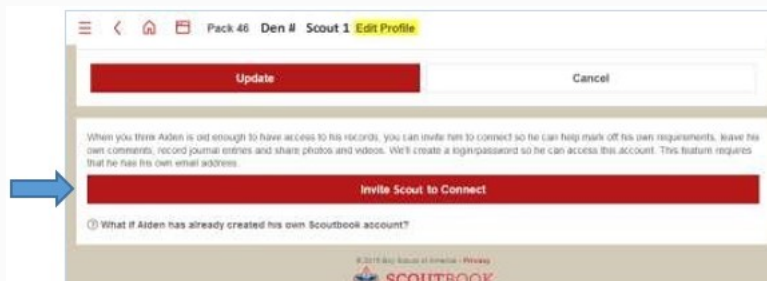
With your permission and a valid Cyber Chip, though, Scouts can receive access to Scoutbook whenever they want to view their profile and the troop calendar, RSVP for meetings and events, explore advancement and award opportunities that might spark their interest, and

record their own advancement progress.\*

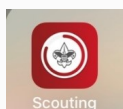
To grant access for your Scout to view his Scoutbook record, follow these steps:

1. After logging in to Scoutbook, click **Edit Profile** on your Scout's profile page.
2. Scroll to the bottom of the page, click **Invite to Connect**, and enter your Scout's email address (see image below).
3. The Scout will receive an email invite with a temporary password. Work together to help him access his profile and set up a strong password that you know and approve.
4. Your Scout can now help keep his Scoutbook advancement record current with his official handbook record.\*

Step 2: Click **Invite to Connect**



## Scouting App



After giving your Scout access to his Scoutbook account online, search for the free Scouting app with the red background and sign in using the same credentials you use for Scoutbook. You and your Scout can have this app on your mobile devices, giving your child the ability to access the troop calendar; add to camping, hiking, and service logs; and monitor rank requirements and other advancements.

For the full range of capabilities, the Scoutbook website will continue to be your go-to site, but you're sure to find the app handy.

*Next week's topic: Supporting Advancement at Home—Scoutbook Dos and Please Don'ts*

Explore Scoutbook

\* 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. Scouts with access to Scoutbook can mark off as **Completed** requirements that have already been signed off in his handbook by a boy leader or Scouter. (A designated adult leader will verify these with your Scout and mark them **Approved**. A future post will cover this process in more detail.)

<sup>1</sup> Boy Scouts of America National Advancement Program Team. "Scouts BSA." *Advancement News*, Vol. 9, No. 4 (July–August, 2019), p. 6. Boy Scouts of America National Advancement Program Team.  
[\[https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/advancement\\_news/2019\\_July-August.pdf\]](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/advancement_news/2019_July-August.pdf)

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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