Scouting America
Three Fires Council

WHAT IS SCOUTCONNECT?

By Three Fires Council Commissioner Brian Caputo

You may have heard that Scouting America has undertaken a technology initiative that includes the creation of ScoutConnect, but what is ScoutConnect?

First, ScoutConnect is ***not a singular website*** where Scouters or Scouts go to do Scouting business or obtain Scouting information. There is nowhere to click to access ScoutConnect per se.

Rather, ScoutConnect is a technology initiative that integrates three Scouting-related information systems:

1. My.Scouting
2. Be-A-Scout
3. Scoutbook Plus

You know My.Scouting. It is the official online portal for adult volunteers, leaders, and parents run by Scouting America. Primarily, My.Scouting is used to manage high-level unit, district, and council information and obtain online Scouting training. You have taken Safeguarding Youth Training through My.Scouting.

Be-A-Scout is the website where parents go to start the process of registering their youth in Scouting. Finally, Scoutbook Plus mainly is the site where unit leaders go to conduct unit-level administration, such as scheduling unit activities, tracking Scout advancement, and sending email messages to unit members.

While there are still aspects of ScoutConnect that will be implemented in the future, the largest part of the platform now is in place. That is, the three components of the platform have been fundamentally integrated. In other words, information entered into Be-A-Scout or Scoutbook Plus automatically flows into My.Scouting. Also, Be-A-Scout and Scoutbook Plus can be access from the My.Scouting landing page by clicking on "Scouting America Web Links."

There is an important point for unit-level leaders to understand in relation to ScoutConnect: ***Scoutbook Plus is the only unit-level administrative system that will be integrated with ScoutConnect.*** Other unit-level administrative systems on the market, such as TroopWebHost and Troopmaster, will not be integrated with ScoutConnect. Therefore, unit leaders who are using unit-level systems other than Scoutbook Plus are encouraged to migrate to Scoutbook Plus as soon as possible.

Questions concerning ScoutConnect should be directed to Assistant Council Commissioner Deb Brown at djrgb@comcast.net.

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