

UNIT WEB PAGE GUIDELINES

With the proliferation of Troop, Pack, Crew, and Post web pages on the Internet, Shenandoah Area Council has found the need to set certain guidelines for Unit Web pages, especially regarding links to other Internet sites, chat rooms and guest books.

Unit Web pages are an extension of the unit. We must consider the Web page as an advertisement for the unit and for the Council. A link on a Unit web page may be construed as an endorsement of that site, or acceptance of its point of view. We suggest that links to other sites be limited to Scouting specific pages.

The following is a list of suggestions regarding acceptable links.

1. Links to the Chartering organization
2. Links to other Unit sites
3. Links to the Council or District site
4. Links to the National site
5. Links to pages that provide specific Scouting information
6. Links to sites that provide information related to specific Scouting skills
7. Links to sites that provide a free service for web pages (e.g. counter pages, chat rooms, and feedback pages)

Following is a list of links that the Council finds to be unacceptable

1. Links to any adult or pornographic site
2. Links to any commercial site
3. Links to any Fraternal Organization (unless the organization is the Chartering Organization)
4. Links to any politically oriented site
5. Links to any religious organization (unless the organization is the Chartering Organization)
6. Links to any site with a specific agenda or point of view
7. Links to personal non-Scouting Web pages

Regarding chat rooms and guest books on Scout web pages:

Chat rooms provide a real time method of discussing interests and or ideas. While chat rooms are a lot of fun, there is a certain amount of anonymity regarding who is actually chatting. It is the suggestion that an adult leader monitor chat rooms while the room is active, and two deep on-line leadership would be a good idea. Guest books are also a great way to get feedback about the Unit's Web page; however, the postings to the guest book should be monitored to make sure that comments are suitable for youth members to read.

Decorum

Scouters should exercise propriety and good taste online. Material that will be posted to a unit site or sent from a unit e-mail account should be reviewed by at least three adult members of the unit committee. Access (the ability to place material on the site or send messages from the account) should be controlled by an adult who is responsible to the committee.

Youth Protection

Names, images, and especially contact information pertaining to youth members should never be gathered or published over the Internet.

Copyright

Do not "borrow" (without permission) content for use in unit Web sites. Written permission should always be obtained, even when material is declared to be "free" or "public domain;" it might not be.