

# BCS 108

## Mining Internet Resources



<b>Time allotted</b>	50 minutes
<b>Teaching format</b>	Instructor-led discussion with PowerPoint support, Group activity

### Resources

<b>Handouts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BCS 108 - Official BSA Websites</li> <li>• BCS 108 - Scavenger Hunt Activity</li> </ul>
<b>Equipment and materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BCS 108 – Mining Internet Resources course plan</li> <li>• BCS 108 – Mining Internet Resources PowerPoint presentation</li> <li>• BCS 108 - Scavenger Hunt Activity Answers (instructor copy)</li> <li>• Internet access (participants with laptops preferable)</li> <li>• Computer and projector</li> <li>• Whiteboard or flip chart (optional), appropriate markers and eraser</li> </ul>
<b>Resources for additional participant learning</b>	

### Course Connections

<b>Connections to other CCS courses</b>	.
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### Presentation Outline

#### Introduction and Course Objectives – 5 minutes

Commissioners are asked many questions and assumed to be experts on everything. Although they may wish to be an expert, knowing where to find information can make them a virtual expert. Today we will concentrate not on the local “who do you call” but on using the internet, in effect, mining internet resources.

#### Course Objectives

Many of you got a chuckle of the commercial with the tagline “I saw it on the internet, it must be true”. There are many pitfalls to a belief in such a statement and our objectives today are to:

- **Recognize** internet resources with good information
- **Select** reliable websites
- **Summarize** internet resources for unit and commissioner use

## Recognizing Good Information Sources – 30 minutes

The Boy Scouts of America has many talented individuals who provide volunteer service, who want to spread their knowledge and wisdom, and help others not have to reinvent the wheel. As an organization we encourage that, but we must also be watchful that there is a shelf-life to much information as requirements, forms, and publications are updated and sometimes, a well-meaning individual just may be wrong on a subject.

The key for policy information is to use an official BSA website.

**ASK:** What does “official BSA website” mean?

An official BSA website is one that is owned by the BSA (as opposed to an individual or unit). Any site that does not fit into being “official” we will call “unofficial”.

By going to an official website, you can access the real verbiage, forms, and intent. Unofficial sites have loads of great information, but may not be accurate or up to date.

Official websites range from national, to regional, and to council.

**ASK:** What do you do if your council website has information that conflicts with the national website?

In general, defer to the national website because there is a greater chance that it has the most up-to-date information.

As we will see later in our discussions, most BSA forms are available online at an official website and are regularly updated. Too often we see units post on their own websites outdated forms and publications vs. providing a link to the form or publication on an official site. The latter is a best practice to pass to your units.

### ***Why Use the Internet?***

Commissioners are called upon to do many things, but they are best summed up by the commissioner objectives. Through our own knowledge of internet resources and by also providing our units knowledge of internet resources, we can touch each objective.

**ASK:** How might the internet be useful to a commissioner on each commissioner objective?

Free form input from the participants.

### ***Unofficial websites***

Before we launch into official websites, let’s review again what is an unofficial website.

**ASK:** What is an unofficial website?

A site not sponsored by the BSA (includes unit websites).

**ASK:** What are the dangers of using unofficial website?

Possible erroneous or dated guidance, possible dated material.

### ***Official BSA websites*** (titles only in balloons slide)

Official sites are sponsored by the BSA and the national websites are typically start with a “www” and end with “.org”. Here are some general categories of national level BSA websites.

Let’s have a brainstorming session and see how many sites we can think of that may fall into one of these categories. Call out some BSA websites that you know and what category you think they belong. (OPTION: This is a good opportunity to record them on a white board or flipchart. Do not feel you need to capture all of them, but get enough to get the participants energized that there is a lot out there).

For virtual presentation, consider using the whiteboard in the technology platform or a PowerPoint slide in editor mode. Also consider asking people to unmute themselves, call out their answer, and return to mute; use the chat line; or raise their hands to be called on by the instructor or facilitator.

### ***Official BSA websites*** (titles and websites in balloons slide)

Let’s see how you did. As you can see there are multiple sites here you may be unaware of, and BSA continues to add more sites for more specialized resource areas.

**YELLOW** - balloon holds the two sites which are the primary general purpose go-to sites for scouting information.

**PINK** - breaking news and updates

**RED** - for specific knowledge on a scouting program, additional information, or guidance

**BLUE** - shows BSA’s national high adventure base websites.

**ORANGE** - website information on supporting scouting.

**GREEN** - official sites that are below the national level and whose website address will be specific to your area.

### **[www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org)**

This site is your main library of knowledge, forms, publications, and policy. We’re going to spend some time getting familiar with it as it will be of great assistance with those commissioner objectives we discussed earlier. Let’s walk through a few to see what is available.

### [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org)

Scroll down to find the different program areas. Clicking on each will take you to a page chock-full of information, links, forms, and publications related to that program area. Remember, all we had to do was go to [scouting.org](http://scouting.org), and select the program we want. Let's click on Cub Scouts.

### [www.scouting.org/cubscouts](http://www.scouting.org/cubscouts)

The link takes us to the Cub Scout page. As you can see, there are many aides here for volunteers at the pack level. These include program resources and plans, awards and training information. Does your unit know about this? Let's try another program area.

### [www.couting.org/scoutsbsa](http://www.couting.org/scoutsbsa)

Going back to the program tab, let's select Scouts BSA. Once again, we see some great information, including some links to other sites which are great resources at the unit level. Does your local troop's patrol leaders' council know this information is available? Let's try one more.

### <https://www.scouting.org/programs/venturing/>

Going back to the red balloon, let's visit a program specific website, in this case we have chosen [venturing.org](http://venturing.org). This site is pretty close to one-stop shopping for all things Venturing. Other sites are similar.

### [www.exploring.org](http://www.exploring.org)

Informs visitors to the site that Exploring provides exciting activities and mentorship for youth looking to discover their future endeavors.

### [www.seascout.org](http://www.seascout.org)

The source for all of your Sea Scout needs!

### [www.scouting.org/?s=scout+book](http://www.scouting.org/?s=scout+book)

This page reveals over 1,000 topics that are cross-cutting across program areas and each one provides jewels of information.

**ASK:** Where do commissioner go to find the national website for commissioners?

For virtual presentation, one way to keep the energy level high is to ask people to race to see who answers first in the chat line. Otherwise, consider allowing people to unmute themselves, call out their answer, and return to mute; answer in the chat line; or raise their hands to be called on by the instructor or facilitator.

### [www.scouting.org/commissioners](http://www.scouting.org/commissioners)

Everything from Journey to Excellence to training, to guides to the commissioner newsletter, are available from this site. Tools you learn here can help as you execute those commissioner objectives.

### [www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/)

This site helps units understand where to go for official BSA policy and guidance.

### [scouting.org Shortcut](http://scouting.org)

Find it fast by adding a forward slash “/” and your **topic** after [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org)

**Example:** [www.scouting.org/meritbadges](http://www.scouting.org/meritbadges)

### [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org)

Leaving scouting.org, let's get more personal and talk about the BSA website that is tailored for each individual scouter. What better name to call a website tailored to you than my.Scouting.org? There are 7 possible major tools currently available on my.scouting.org, depending on your position in scouting as some sites have visibility only to those in certain positions.

- **My Dashboard** will show you where you are on your own training and provide you access to taking courses.
- **Commissioner Tools** is a great commissioner tool. There are several training modules on how to use it.
- **Training Manager** will help you track how a unit is doing on training.
- **Roster Manager** will allow you to see rosters.
- **My Organization Dashboard** is an overview of how the organization is doing.
- **Organization Manager** provides the ability to manage your unit's organization information and structure.
- **Organization Security Manager** provides a units' Key 3 the ability to assign certain functional roles including Key 3 delegate.

### **News Sites**

Do you like to stay up to date on the latest in scouting and see if the rumor is true? *Scouting Wire* tells everything from upcoming changes to news items like new council executives. The *Bryan on Scouting* blog provides a modern social media feel and includes things such as “ask the expert”. Give them a try.

### **Social Media**

Today's world revolves around social media sites. BSA has approved sites on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, etc. Here are a few to check out.

## **\*Distribute listing of Official BSA Websites.**

For virtual presentation, handouts should be sent out via email prior to, after, or during the class. Some colleges use Drop Box or a similar central folder for students. A link can be put in the chat line, but the student will be distracted by having to save the link or the document during class.

**Activity and Instructor Led Discussion Notes:** There are options on how to conduct this activity:

**Scavenger Hunt Game** – run game in slide show. Click on random questions, when question has been answered click on the “Scavenger Hunt” image which will return to the Question Board. Continue as time allows.

**Notes: Options on how to conduct this activity:**

**A.** Dependent on class size, divide the participants into small groups. Using the list of “Official BSA Websites” handout, each group will suggest possible answers to the “Scavenger Hunt” questions.

Group 1 would be responsible for #1 – 9, group 2 # 10 – 18, and group 3 # 19 – 27.

**B. Virtual Option:** Do not assign teams. Click on random questions and ask participants to post answers in the “chat”. 1 point for first person to respond with correct answer “wins” the point.

**C.** Provide the handout and have groups come up with the answer (best used if there is no internet access.

**D.** Play “Stump the Group” by asking for someone to suggest a topic to find on an official BSA website and let the group recommend where to go and then go there to judge success.

## **Scavenger Hunt Activity – 10 minutes**

## **Summary/Conclusion – 5 minutes**

We have breezed through a lot of material today, but let’s answer a few questions before we conclude.

Q: What is the difference between official and unofficial websites?

Q: What websites are you likely to use the most and why?

## **Questions? – 5 minutes**