



## New Scout Tip: Overview of Available Resources

Resources are everywhere for scouts; you just need to know where to look!

First off, the best and definitive resource is always going to be the Scout Handbook. *Scouting for Boys* was first published in 1910 and authored by Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scout Movement. Since then, it has been revised many times but has always remained the primary resource for scouts. Additionally, the handbook is the **primary system of record when tracking advancement**. It is important to take care of the handbook and to have the handbook at every scouting event (meeting, trip, etc.).

In addition to the handbook, here is a list of web resources that are definitely worth exploring:

- Troop 58: [www.GT58davidson.com](http://www.GT58davidson.com)
  - First stop for Troop calendar, trip registration links, upcoming events, and other Troop specific information
- Scoutbook: <https://www.scoutbook.com/>
  - Online advancement tracking system used by the Advancement Coordinator as the troop wide electronic system of record for completed advancement.
  - You will have access to your/your scouts individual profile so advancement can be tracked.
  - Once your scout is registered with National GT58 will set up parent/s in Scoutbook. Only a parent can invite their scout to connect to Scoutbook. Look under scout's profile at the bottom there is a link to send an invitation. Adults and scouts that are setup in Scoutbook can login and check their advancement.
  - Data is gathered from and input into the online system when the handbook is presented to and reviewed by the Advancements Coordinator.
- Scouts BSA: [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org)
  - As the official website, this has a tremendous amount of valuable information and resources
- MeritBadge.org: [www.meritbadge.org](http://www.meritbadge.org)
  - Although not affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, this site provides many good resources covering all scouting programs
  - In addition to many details on merit badges, rank requirements, etc., one of the best resources is the rank workbooks. These workbooks are meant to assist in organization and preparation for discussions with an adult leader and can be very helpful.
    - Example: [http://meritbadge.org/wiki/images/f/f0/First\\_Class\\_rank.pdf](http://meritbadge.org/wiki/images/f/f0/First_Class_rank.pdf)
- US Scouting Service Project: [www.usscouts.org](http://www.usscouts.org)
  - Another unaffiliated site full of valuable information
- Mecklenburg County Council: [www.mccscouting.org](http://www.mccscouting.org)
- REI Expert Advice: [www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice](http://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice)
  - An excellent source of knowledge on all things outdoors