

# BRYAN ON SCOUTING



## A Blog for the BSA's Adult Leaders

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August 9  
2012

45 COMMENTS



### The Ultimate List of Scouting Apps

Once upon a time, we used maps printed on paper to find our way. We studied laminated sky charts to identify constellations. We counted seconds after thunder strikes to locate storms.

What were we thinking?

Today, thanks to the ubiquitous smartphone, we can do all that and more with a few taps.

As Scout leaders, we can now carry a library, GPS, weather radio, compass, map, camera, and field guide in our pocket. But which apps are worth downloading or — in some cases — paying for?

I tapped [our Facebook](#) friends to find out.

### Smartphones in Scouting

A post about smartphones isn't complete without a discussion on whether these devices are appropriate in Scouting.

For Scout leaders, smartphones can be an important tool in tracking advancement, researching questions on the spot, and keeping Scouts safe from weather hazards. For Scouts, I think the best approach is "everything in moderation."

While smartphones can be a distraction from the great outdoors, they can also be a modern-day Swiss Army knife — a multipurpose tool to enhance a young person's Scouting experience. Facebook friend Michael Kunz agrees. He wrote: "Mobile will become an accepted practice in Scouting. Prepare now for it."

In fact, next summer's [national Scout jamboree](#) will again embrace the use of

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### ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Bryan Wendell, an Eagle Scout, is the senior editor of *Scouting* magazine. [Send Bryan an e-mail](#) with questions, comments, or ideas for blog posts.

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19,299 people like

smartphones by Scouts. Boys and girls who bring their connected devices will have an enhanced jamboree experience that allows them to find their way around the site, learn more about jamboree activities, and connect with other participants.

Related: [Should you allow your Scouts to bring their smartphones on camping trips?](#)

## Readers' Favorite Scouting-Related Apps

Here's the list with links to download them. Each was submitted by you, and I should point out that most of these aren't "official" Boy Scouts of America apps. In other words, use at your own risk.

### ACCUWEATHER

**Devices:** Android, iPhone/iPod Touch, iPad, Windows Phone

**Cost:** Free

**Description:** "Voted 'Best iPhone App' by the 2012 Mobie awards, AccuWeather for iPhone is free and users tell us it is their 'Go-to weather app.'"

**Download:** [Android](#). [iPhone/iPod Touch](#). [iPad](#). [Windows Phone](#).

### ANIMATED KNOTS BY GROG

**Devices:** Android, iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad

**Cost:** \$4.99

**Description:** "Teaching and reference tool for boaters, climbers, fishermen, Scouts and hobbyists. Watch as knots tie themselves in simple step-by-step photo animations."

**Download:** [Android](#). [Apple](#).

### AUDUBON BIRDS

**Devices:** Android, iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad

**Cost:** \$4.99

**Description:** "The award winning, must-have bird guide. Now including 49 new species and field marks for over 650 birds."

**Download:** [Android](#). [Apple](#).

### BACKCOUNTRY NAVIGATOR DEMO AND BACKCOUNTRY NAVIGATOR PRO

**Devices:** Android

**Cost:** Free for demo, \$9.99 for pro

**Description:** "Use your phone or tablet as an offroad topo mapping GPS with the bestselling outdoor navigation app for Android! Explore beyond cell coverage for hiking, hunting and more."

**Download:** [DEMO](#). [PRO](#).

### BACKPACKER GPS TRAILS LITE AND BACKPACKER GPS TRAILS PRO



**Devices:** Android, iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad

**Cost:** Free for Lite, \$4.99 for Pro (no ads, offline maps, video shooting)



**Description:** "Record hiking trails, backpacking trips, and camping




Scouting magazine. 19,298 people like Scouting magazine.



Glen



Dave Robert

 Facebook social plugin

## FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

Get a sneak peek at the September issue of Boys' Life. RT @BoysLife: It's already September at BL! [ow.ly/d2xRA](#) 21 minutes ago

Have a say in Scouting program changes, including new merit badges or updated rank requirements: [bit.ly/N2yizy](#) (repost for PM) 18 hours ago

Because the BSA can't read your mind ... join the Scouting Research Panel and have a say in program changes: [bit.ly/N2yizy](#) 1 day ago

 Follow @scouting

## RECENT POSTS

Because the BSA can't read your mind ...

July-August 'Where Am I?' location—and winner!—revealed

Why are so many boys taking so much longer to reach Eagle Scout?

Join the Eagle celebration live from your couch

[The Ultimate List of Scouting Apps](#)

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## BEST BLOG OF 2012

Bryan on Scouting was named the Best Web Publication Blog/Trade and Consumer at the 2012 Western Publishing

adventures with Backpacker GPS Trails Pro. View maps, navigate with GPS and digital compass, take photos, and backtrack to the trailhead.”

Download: [Free Android](#). [Free Apple](#). [\\$4.99 Android](#). [\\$4.99 Apple](#).

**BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK**

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad

Cost: \$9.99

Description: The official “first digital version of the *Scout Handbook*.”

Download: [Here](#).



**BSA ON-THE-GO**

Device: Android

Cost: Free

Description: “The most complete collection of BSA requirements on the Android.” Includes Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Venturing, and Varsity awards and advancement.

Download: [Here](#).



**CAMERA+**

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad

Cost: \$0.99

Description: An upgrade to Apple’s built-in Camera application, featuring lots of handy tools.

Download: [Here](#).



**CAMERA ZOOM FX**

Devices: Android.

Cost: \$2.99

Description: “The award-winning camera app for Android devices! Camera ZOOM FX is now Editor’s Choice on Lifehacker, Gizmodo, Mashable and SlashGear. Replace all your camera / photo FX apps with just one.”

Download: [Here](#).



**CAMPFIRE SONGS**

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad

Cost: Free (or remove ads for \$1.99)

Description: “A collection of 175 classic campfire favorites. Great for use at Campfires, Campouts, Troop Meetings, Pack Meetings or whenever you have the desire to sing. Songs can be accessed by a type, such as Patriotic Songs, by an alphabetical index or by their tune.”

Download: [Here](#).



Association Maggie awards.



**CAMP RECIPES!**

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad

Cost: \$1.99

**Description:** “Whatever you can think of to cook on a campfire, this app has 10 ways to cook it. And they aren’t just made up either....these are campers’ favorite recipes from all over the country, tried and true, cooked and eaten. With over 700+ recipes conveniently listed by category, by time, and by keyword search, you can literally go on 100’s of campouts and hike’s without eating the same thing twice.”

Download: [Here](#).



**DUTCH OVEN CALCULATOR**

Devices: Android

Cost: Free

**Description:** “Calculates the number of charcoal briquettes needed to cook a given recipe in a camping Dutch Oven.”

Download: [Here](#).



**ETRAILTOEAGLE**

Devices: Android, iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad

Cost: \$1.99

**Description:** “Using your eTrailToEagle account, you can use this application to manage rank and merit badge information for all of your Scouts. You also have quick and easy access to your troop address book to quickly contact anyone in the troop.”

Download: [Android](#). [Apple](#).



**EVERYTRAIL AND EVERYTRAIL PRO**

Devices: Android, iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad

Cost: Free or \$3.99 for paid version with no ads and offline maps

**Description:** “EveryTrail is the best way to share trips, connect with other travelers and find great new things to do. Plot your trip, photos and videos right on the map and upload it to EveryTrail.com, Facebook and Twitter.”

Download: [Free Android](#). [Free Apple](#). [\\$3.99 Android](#). [\\$3.99 Apple](#).



**FIRST AID BY AMERICAN RED CROSS**

Devices: Android, iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad

Cost: Free

**Description:** “Accidents happen. The official American Red Cross First Aid app puts expert advice for everyday emergencies in your hand. Get the app and be prepared for what life brings. With videos, interactive quizzes and simple step-by-step advice it’s never been easier to know first aid.”

Download: [Android](#). [Apple](#).



**GEOCACHING**

Devices: Android, iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Windows Phone

**Cost:** \$9.99

**Description:** “Groundspeak’s Geocaching Application provides real-time, direct access to Geocaching.com’s database of worldwide geocaches, as well as many other features designed to provide you with a lifetime of outdoor geocaching adventure anywhere in the world.”

**Download:** [Android](#). [Apple](#). [Windows Phone](#).



**KNOTS 3D**

**Devices:** Android, iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad

**Cost:** Free or \$1.99 for paid version with “slow-motion and zoom control, favorites list and over 70 knots”

**Description:** “Choose from over 70 knots and see how they’re tied in incredible detail.”

**Download:** [Free Android](#). [Free Apple](#). [\\$1.99 Android](#). [\\$1.99 Apple](#).



**LEAF SNAP**

**Devices:** iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad

**Cost:** Free

**Description:** “Developed by researchers from Columbia University, the University of Maryland, and the Smithsonian Institution. This free mobile app uses visual recognition software to help identify tree species from photographs of their leaves.”

**Download:** [iPhone/iPod Touch](#). [iPad](#).



**MUNZEE**

**Devices:** Android, iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad

**Cost:** Free

**Description:** “Munzee is a real world scavenger hunt game where items are found in the real world and captured using your smartphone. You then level up and gain rank based on your score. Points are obtained by capturing other people’s munzees or when your deployed munzees are captured by someone else. Munzee is based off of the fundamentals of geocaching and adds another layer of fun to the hunt.”

**Download:** [Android](#). [Apple](#).



**NATIONAL PARKS BY NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC AND NATIONAL PARK MAPS HD**

**Devices:** iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad

**Cost:** Free for National Parks, \$3.99 for Maps HD

**Description:** “National Geographic presents an award winning, new, beautiful, and interactive guide to twenty of the most-visited U.S. national parks with a new app for iPhone and iPad.”

**Download:** [National Parks](#). [National Parks Maps HD](#).



**THE NIGHT SKY**

**Devices:** Android, iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad

**Cost:** \$0.99

**Description:** "Enables you to identify the stars, planets, galaxies, constellations and even satellites you can see above. Just stand anywhere and hold your device up to the sky and The Night Sky will display the names of the stars, planets and other objects you are able to see."

**Download:** [Android](#). [Apple](#).



**PACK BADGES**

**Devices:** iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad

**Cost:** \$3.99

**Description:** "Helps you track the advancement of Cub Scouts, including requirements for Tiger, Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos badges, and the various electives and activity badges for each year of the Cub Scout program."

**Download:** [Here](#).



**SAS SURVIVAL GUIDE AND SAS SURVIVAL GUIDE LITE**

**Devices:** Android, iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Windows Phone

**Cost:** Free for Lite, \$5.99 for the version with full text

**Description:** "For over twenty years, the SAS Survival Guide has been the definitive guide to surviving any situation, anywhere in the world. Now, for the first time ever, the million-copy bestselling book has been reinvented for the iPhone."

**Download:** [Free Android](#). [Free iPhone/iPod Touch](#). [\\$5.99 Android](#). [\\$5.99 iPhone/iPod Touch](#). [\\$5.99 iPad](#).



**SCOUTTRAIL**

**Devices:** iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad

**Cost:** \$0.99

**Description:** "Be Prepared with ScoutTrail, the app that every Scout and Scouter should have for up-to-date information for all BSA ranks, merit badges, and special awards."

**Download:** [Here](#).



**SKY MAP**

**Devices:** Android

**Cost:** Free

**Description:** "Turns your Android-powered device into a window on the night sky. Open sourced and donated by Google."

**Download:** [Here](#).



**SPYGLASS**

**Devices:** iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad

**Cost:** \$3.99





**Description:** “Spyglass is a powerful toolkit essential for every outdoorsman. Augmented reality navigator and a compass for the off-road. Packed with many useful tools: a hi-tech viewfinder, milspec compass, gyrocompass, maps, GPS tracker, speedometer, sextant, gyro horizon, inclinometer, angular calculator and 5x zoom camera. Tag, share, find and track your position, multiple locations, bearings, Sun, Moon and stars, all in real time.”

**Download:** [Here](#).

**STAR WALK**

**Devices:** iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad



**Cost:** \$2.99 for iPhone/iPod Touch, \$4.99 for iPad

**Description:** “Augmented reality app that labels all the stars, constellations, and satellites you point your iPhone at.”

**Download:** [iPhone/iPod Touch](#). [iPad](#).

**THEODOLITE**

**Devices:** iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad



**Cost:** \$3.99

**Description:** “Based on a centuries-old navigation instrument, Theodolite is a cool multi-function augmented reality app for the iPhone that serves as a compass, GPS, map, zoom camera (photo & movie), rangefinder, and two-axis inclinometer. Theodolite overlays real time information about position, altitude, bearing, and horizontal/vertical inclination on the iPhone’s live camera image, like an electronic viewfinder.”

**Download:** [Here](#).

**TRAIL TO EAGLE**

**Devices:** Android, iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Windows Phone



**Cost:** \$0.99

**Description:** “A reference guide for Boy Scouts. Quickly look up the Scout Oath or Promise, Scout Law, Scout Motto, Scout Slogan, or Outdoor Code. Easily track a scout’s progress along their trail to Eagle. All ranks; Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, Eagle are available.”

**Download:** [Android](#). [Apple](#). [Windows Phone](#).

**US ARMY BUGLE CALLS**

**Devices:** Android, iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad



**Cost:** Free

**Description:** “This selection of United States Army bugle calls allows people to play from 18 classic bugle calls. Great for Soldiers, family members, ROTC Cadets, Boy Scouts, band members and anyone who wants a soundboard of Army bugle calls.”

**Download:** [Android](#). [Apple](#).

**THE WEATHER CHANNEL**

**Devices:** Android, iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Kindle Fire, Windows Phone, BlackBerry

**Cost:** Free



**Description:** “Accurate and relevant weather information whenever weather matters to you. With 200+ meteorologists and, our ultra-local TruPoint(sm) forecasting technology, we provide you with the weather tools you need to plan your day, week, or even the next hour.”

**Download:** [Android](#). [iPhone/iPod Touch](#). [iPad](#). [Windows Phone](#). [BlackBerry](#).

## Your turn

Which of these apps do you like or dislike? Which of your favorites are missing from the list? Help me keep this list fresh by **leaving a comment below**. Thanks!

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*Posted By:* Bryan    *Category:* Boy Scouting, Cub Scouting, Fun, Scouting Tips, Technology, Varsity, Venturing

« OLDER POST

*What’s the only thing wrong with the Braille Boy Scout Handbook?*

NEWER POST »

*Join the Eagle celebration live from your couch*

## 45 THOUGHTS ON “THE ULTIMATE LIST OF SCOUTING APPS”



Joe

August 9, 2012 @ 3:56 pm

[Reply](#)

For the record, we used Munzee at the 2012 NOAC. Huge fun!

6 0



starscout59

August 9, 2012 @ 3:57 pm

[Reply](#)

Reblogged this on [Algonquin District](#) and commented:  
Check it out!! Lots of new apps here -

0 0



Colby

August 9, 2012 @ 3:57 pm

[Reply](#)

I prefer to use iBird Pro for birding.

1 0





**Kevin**

[Reply](#)

August 9, 2012 @ 4:06 pm

Sad that you can't get the Official BS Handbook on Android

👍 12 🗨️ 0 ⓘ Rate This



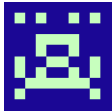
**Paul Yelk**

[Reply](#)

August 9, 2012 @ 4:08 pm

Just remember, these apps SUPPLEMENT other things. Do not rely solely upon them for whatever you may be doing. A Scout uses ALL his resources; not just one!

👍 0 🗨️ 0 ⓘ Rate This



**Bob Porell**

[Reply](#)

August 9, 2012 @ 4:09 pm

Part of getting the Scouting Story out is the visuals we provide. To do that we need to make the visuals "Pop". I recommend a bunch of fun and easy photography apps for the iphone:

Photogene2 – it's a mini photoshop for your iphone. Take a photo, crop, and adjust it then tell your story on facebook – all without leaving your phone.

Big Lens – This allows you to isolate a part of your photo while "slightly blurring" the rest. This makes your subject really pop out.

Plus there's iTimeLapse – Make a time lapse movie with your iphone, add music from your library and publish the result right to you tube or facebook. Here's my first attempt done at summer camp and added to facebook in minutes:

<http://youtu.be/AYwh-MvZI-s>

Any one of these can help you make great visuals and help share Scouting's story.

👍 1 🗨️ 0 ⓘ Rate This



**Adam**

[Reply](#)

August 9, 2012 @ 4:14 pm

Missing one 😊

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.onlineadam.bsasquareknots>

👍 0 🗨️ 0 ⓘ Rate This



**Brian**

[Reply](#)

August 10, 2012 @ 12:16 pm

^– The linked Android application identifies the meaning of different square knot uniform patches.

👍 2 🗨️ 0 ⓘ Rate This



**sam Anderson**

[Reply](#)

August 9, 2012 @ 4:16 pm

i liked this post on facebook but then it occurred to me... isn't scout to get away from the big world full of electronics and other such things. My troop has a rule, no electronics at meetings and camping trips. I have heard several other troops say they have this rule. So this confuses me and makes me question what boyscouts is turning into. And no i don't think you can make the argument that they are adapting to new times because they've tried so hard to keep the scouts looking in the past and keeping the scouts acting as in the old times with all the merit badges aimed at the past. I would love to hear

everybodys thoughts on this and feel free to message me on facebook

👍 4 🗨️ 3 🌐

Rate This



**Bryan**

August 9, 2012 @ 4:19 pm

[Reply](#)

Sam,

Great point. I shared a few thoughts on that in the blog post, but I do agree that it's a topic worth discussing at the unit level.

Though I'll bet some Scouts will see this list, the apps (and my blog) are targeted primarily at Scout leaders.

- Bryan

👍 4 🗨️ 0 🌐

Rate This



**Jeremy**

August 9, 2012 @ 11:14 pm

[Reply](#)

i would say look to the Scout Motto – “Be Prepared”. what are you preparing your scouts for? life? then electronics needs to be a part of it. the merit badges reflect this thinking – electronics, computers, etc. (i'm not up with the current list, i've been away from scouting for a while) but i remember technology oriented merit badges back when i was a scout in the 80s. i can understand a rule about it during meetings – it could get disruptive and cause problems. but do electronics have a place in scouting? of course! Be Prepared! life is not only lived in the woods. (unfortunately)

👍 4 🗨️ 0 🌐 Rate This



**Brian**

August 10, 2012 @ 12:14 pm

[Reply](#)

How does this technology conflict with that?

Let's say there is a Scout who has become quite interested in knots. They've already mastered the few knots that are in the Handbook and are interested in learning about additional knots that may be more useful. To learn more, they go to the library and check out a knot-tying book / find a knot tying website / download a knot-tying application / ask someone that is knowledgeable about knots. This is simply a way to access information. Generally restricting the same information content because of a different delivery mechanism makes no sense. Limits make sense during meetings and campouts – you don't necessarily want Scouts running off to the library in the middle of meetings or a Scout calling his uncle about geology in the middle of a campout or downloading an application about veterinary medicine during the flag ceremony.

A key point in Scouting is education, and telling scouts they should never use technology to learn about Scouting skills just makes no sense.

👍 1 🗨️ 0 🌐

Rate This



**Ronald Pierantozzi**

August 11, 2012 @ 7:30 am

[Reply](#)

To me it is simple. A lot of “No Electronics” was set in place was when electronic devices were only music and game based. That has now changed. Now we have electronic learning tools and if scouting can benefit from the

learning/teaching experience, they should be considered.

👍 2 🗨️ 0 ⓘ Rate This



**Josh Enke**

August 9, 2012 @ 4:18 pm

[Reply](#)

BSA Square Knots is a good app too.

👍 2 🗨️ 0 ⓘ Rate This



**Alan Davison**

August 9, 2012 @ 4:26 pm

[Reply](#)

I would also add GPS Status for Android. It is very good and quick at finding your location. And Overland for travel and mapping.

👍 1 🗨️ 0 ⓘ

[Rate This](#)



**Keith MacNeal**

August 9, 2012 @ 4:33 pm

[Reply](#)

I always thought the rule for charcoal for Dutch ovens was 1 briquette for every 10 deg. F. The app shows about 10 fewer than that.

👍 0 🗨️ 0 ⓘ Rate This



**Jeff**

August 9, 2012 @ 4:36 pm

[Reply](#)

All thes apps and smart phones are great. And for the most part are great tools to have. But it is still a good idea to teach the up coming scouts to use a compass, protractor, scout book ect. Food for thought. What do you do when you smart phone dies?

👍 4 🗨️ 0 ⓘ Rate This



**Ronald Pierantozzi**

August 11, 2012 @ 7:10 am

[Reply](#)

The article written here never said APPs will replace use of the compass, protractor, scout book ect.

👍 0 🗨️ 0 ⓘ Rate This



**SadBlackberry**

August 9, 2012 @ 4:50 pm

[Reply](#)

Wow totally leave out the Blackberry. I know it is sub par compared to the devices above but some of us are at the mercy of our companies.

👍 1 🗨️ 2 ⓘ Rate This



**Mark**

August 9, 2012 @ 5:06 pm

[Reply](#)

GPS Status is a fantastic compass for Android. Lat Long Calc Pro works well for setting up or checking an orienteering course. Since many (most?) Scouts don't have smart phones anyway, teaching manual methods only makes sense. Battery die? Goal Zero Nomad 7 solar recharger!

👍 1 🗨️ 0 ⓘ Rate This



Gary

[Reply](#)

August 9, 2012 @ 5:25 pm

Myradar is a great free app to show real time weather radar on your iPhone or iPad. Very helpful in the field to know if a storm is going to hit your campsite.

👍 0 🗨️ 0 ⓘ

[Rate This](#)



Corinne

[Reply](#)

August 9, 2012 @ 6:41 pm

Columbia Sportswear has a great free app called What Knot To Do. You can search knots by name or category (hitches, loops, etc.) You then can get info on what the knot is used for as well as a step by step graphic with instructions on how to tie the knot. It also gives you category info- for example, explaining what a hitch is for along with its subcategories are and how to tell them apart. I am a female leader with no knowledge of knots so this is really helpful for me- it has taught me a lot! I used it to teach my wolf cub scouts how to tie a square knot (which I learned is called a reef knot!) last year.

👍 2 🗨️ 0 ⓘ

[Rate This](#)



Doug

[Reply](#)

August 10, 2012 @ 12:14 am

Kevin wrote: “Sad that you can’t get the Official BS Handbook on Android”

The PDF version of the Boy Scout Handbook can be read by many apps on smartphones, laptops and desktops, and it has searchable text (the iPhone app doesn’t do search). BSA also has PDF versions of the Scoutmaster Handbook, PL Handbook, Fieldbook, the Cub Scout handbooks, (at least 37 of the) merit badge handbooks, and more. I have purchased most of these in paper as well; they are dog-eared from use, but when I need to find something (“what Bear achievements have to do with hiking?”) I go straight to the PDF.

Unfortunately, only a few of these are easily accessible on scouting.org (Troop Program Features, Cub Scout Leader Book, and Cub Scout How-To Book). Why not the rest?

👍 0 🗨️ 0 ⓘ

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Kevin

[Reply](#)

August 10, 2012 @ 9:31 am

Never thought of that, thanks for the tip!

👍 0 🗨️ 0 ⓘ

[Rate This](#)



Brian

[Reply](#)

August 10, 2012 @ 12:01 pm

“Why not the rest?”

Why give them away for free when you can charge money for it?

👍 0 🗨️ 0 ⓘ

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**Doug**

August 12, 2012 @ 3:25 pm

I would buy a bunch of other BSA publications in PDF format, if they were available. I have had the Cub Scout handbooks in PDF for several years, and they are incredibly useful. But I won't be buying any more poor, platform-limited apps with no search capability, like the Boy Scout Handbook app.

👍 0 🗨️ 0 🌐

Rate This

[Reply](#)



**Tim H., SM T99**

August 15, 2012 @ 3:43 pm

"Why give them away for free when you can charge money for it?"

Well, how about, because we're volunteers and already spend quite a bit?

👍 0 🗨️ 0 🌐

Rate This



**Michael Benedetto**

August 10, 2012 @ 6:20 am

We have a no electronics policy on outings as well, but there is a time that these apps and others like it can be integrated into the larger program. For example, we've used the Geocaching app to introduce Geocaching to our Cub Scouts. Our leaders often use Trimble and other similar apps to track and record hikes. I use Leafsnap to help identify trees and other plants since I frankly have had a block since I was a Tenderfoot on plant identification and I prefer to not give the boys an incorrect answer. The key is to use technology as an enhancement to the program and not as the program.

👍 3 🗨️ 0 🌐

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**Scouting Radio**

August 10, 2012 @ 6:26 am

Scouting Radio ([www.ScoutingRadio.com](http://www.ScoutingRadio.com)) will have an app available on iTunes shortly. We have submitted the app to Apple, just waiting for it to be approved.

👍 4 🗨️ 0 🌐

Rate This

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**Brian**

August 10, 2012 @ 7:06 am

I'm trying to figure out if the Guide to Safe Scouting application was forgotten from the list or simply left off it because it's not that good. It's essentially a .pdf file that you can only view with an active internet connection.

👍 1 🗨️ 0 🌐

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**Doug**

August 10, 2012 @ 9:01 am

Brian wrote: "I'm trying to figure out if the Guide to Safe Scouting application was forgotten from the list or simply left off it because it's not that good."

[Reply](#)

I didn't know there was an app for that. I downloaded the GSS PDF from [scouting.org](http://scouting.org) and saved it on my phone, thus meeting the Tour Plan requirement to be "in possession of a current copy of Guide to Safe Scouting". No Internet connection required and, of course, it's searchable.

ob-app-recommendation: I have used some of the above GPS and mapping apps, but many of them draw their own contours then overlay points of interest, which don't always convey the details. I like having real USGS 7.5' quads, downloaded for off-line use in the backcountry. The two iPhone/iPad apps that I use are "Topo Maps" (\$7.99), which has full-resolution quads (with collars and stitching) as well as GPS features; and "Trail Maps by National Geographic" (\$2.99), which has both quads and aerial views.

👍 2 🗨️ 0 ⓘ Rate This



**Brian**

August 10, 2012 @ 11:56 am

[Reply](#)

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.guidetosafescouting&feature=search\\_result#?t=W251bGwsMSwxLDEsImNvbS5ndWlkZXRvc2FmZXNjb3V0aW5nIl0](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.guidetosafescouting&feature=search_result#?t=W251bGwsMSwxLDEsImNvbS5ndWlkZXRvc2FmZXNjb3V0aW5nIl0).

Free to download, but more of a pain then just getting the .pdf file.

👍 0 🗨️ 0 ⓘ Rate This



**Casey**

August 10, 2012 @ 10:54 am

[Reply](#)

What's the point then in being a scout???

A real scout will know what to do when your battery dies, the phone takes a swim, gets left in the sun, the app bugs-out, etc, etc...

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**Brian**

August 10, 2012 @ 11:58 am

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What's the point then in being a scout?

A real scout will know what to do when their Handbook is missing, pages are ripped out, it catches on fire, etc, etc...

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**Stephanie**

August 10, 2012 @ 12:02 pm

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Great post! Here's a few I found in the Google Play store that look pretty promising, but I have no experience with:

- Audubon Trees – Android – \$4.99
- North American Trees – Android – \$0.99
- Audubon Wildflowers – Android – \$4.99
- Trees Free/Trees Pro – Android – Free/\$9.99

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Pingback: [Cell Phones at Camp: Not Very One-Sided Anymore](#) « Ben Luedloff

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John

August 10, 2012 @ 6:45 pm

C: Geo  
free for Android

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Ronald Pierantozzi

August 11, 2012 @ 7:02 am

U.S. Army Survival Guide, Droid, FREE

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Tim H., SM T99

August 15, 2012 @ 3:46 pm

Ronald, is that the one where the cover says “U.S. Army Survival Guide” and when you open it up, it says “Call the Marines.”? 😊

U.S. Navy (Retired)

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Justin B.

August 11, 2012 @ 11:38 am

Bryan, I realize that in this day and age that electronics are our future. And devices like our phones are common place and are a “good” replacement for the old “manual” devices we don’t seem to use much of anymore (compass, map, the stars...). However, our troop also has a “no electronics” policy. The problem with letting boys bring electronics on campouts and to meetings is that all they end up doing is sneaking off to find ways to play with them when adults aren’t looking. I believe that “arming” your troop with a few “smart” devices and GPS units is smart to teach them the ways of the future, but teach them the past first. But don’t let your boys bring their phones and iPod’s to meeting and campouts or you’ll lose their attention.

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Pingback: [Night Sky iPad App](#) | [kevindevin.com](#)



Joleen

August 15, 2012 @ 10:29 pm

I have the use of OH, Ranger! park finder for android and its a free app. that gives new ideas of places to go camping at and whats available etc. I also find google sky map an awesome app for star gazing.

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Angela Cornelison

August 16, 2012 @ 12:01 pm

CMC Rescue has a free app. for knots. I love it!

👍 0 🗨️ 0 ⓘ

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~kathy

[Reply](#)



August 17, 2012 @ 8:56 am

The geocaching one is AWESOME. We leave the GPS at home now. Even our littlest ones can find the cache easily with this app. I've also used Starwalk and that's really cool too.

I'm looking forward to trying the knots ones to refresh my memory. The dutch oven calculator look like it may help as well – maybe I won't burn so many biscuits now 😊

👍 0 💬 0 🌐

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2013 National Scout Jamboree  
July 15th, 2013

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months to go.