

Cyber Chip and the Scout Rank

The new **Scout rank**, effective Jan. 1, 2016, includes a requirement intended to protect youth in our ever-changing cyber-community. That new requirement (#6) calls for Scouts to “earn the Cyber Chip Award for your grade.” There are four age-appropriate Cyber Chip Awards, with content based on a Scout's grade in school.

A transitioning Webelos Scout who holds an unexpired Cyber Chip card **for his current school grade** has fulfilled this portion of the Scout rank requirement as part of the Webelos “Scouting Adventure.”



- If his Cyber Chip card is currently valid, he should simply demonstrate his knowledge to his Scoutmaster or other designated leader after joining the troop. This is not a retest. If, however, the Scout has not grasped these concepts, they may be re-viewed (based on Cyber Chip requirements for the Scout's current grade) to ensure understanding.
- All Cyber Chip Awards expire annually, so if a new Scout's Cyber Chip card for his current grade has lapsed, he simply needs to “recharge” the chip by going back to the [Netsmartz](#) Recharge area.

For a youth joining Boy Scouts who was not a Cub Scout, the Cyber Chip award to be earned depends on his school grade while working on the Scout rank. If he has already completed the 5th grade, he would complete Cyber Chip requirements for grades 6-8, as would a Boy Scout joining in the 6th through 8th grade. If a youth joins Boy Scouts in the 9th through 12th grade, he would complete Cyber Chip requirements for grades 9-12.

Since technology and youth development are always changing, the Cyber Chip requirement must be completed again by all Boy Scouts for the Star rank regardless of any prior work. Which Cyber Chip Award requirements are to be completed for the Star rank likewise depends on that Scout's current grade in school.

Note that there is a *very limited exception* to the Cyber Chip requirements . . . “if your family does not have internet access at home AND you do not have ready internet access at school or another public place or via a mobile device, the Cyber Chip portion of the requirement may be waived by your Scoutmaster in consultation with your parent or guardian.” In that event, it is understood that the Scout does not have Internet access and does not have the ability to be online.

Internet Safety Pledge (for Cub Scouts)

1. I will tell my trusted adult if anything makes me feel sad, scared, confused, or uncomfortable.
2. I will ask my trusted adult before posting photos or sharing information like my name, address, current locations, or phone number.
3. I won't meet face-to-face with anyone I meet in the digital world.
4. I will respect the online property of others.
5. I will always use good “netiquette” and not be rude or mean online.

Internet Safety Pledge (for Boy Scouts)

1. I will think before I post
2. I will respect other people online
3. I will respect digital media ownership
4. I won't meet face-to-face with anyone I meet in the digital world unless I have my parent's permission
5. I will protect myself online.