



Publishing Guidelines for Council Historians

The Scouting Memories Project envisions an interactive national archival website of Scouting history at the council, camp, and Order of the Arrow lodge levels. It is searchable across more than 1,000 modern and older Scout Councils, more than 3,000 Scout Camps, and more than 1,000 Order of the Arrow lodges.

Historical information is archived in six categories: History (in textual form), Photos, Videos, Oral History, Memorabilia, and Scout Museums.

Council Historians are primary publishers of their respective historical knowledge. As the primary gatekeeper for publishing their historical information, Council Historians are provided these guidelines to assist in publishing decisions:

- **Role of the Scout Executive in Publishing Decisions:** Council Historians should confer with their Scout Executive regarding all historical information to be published in the Scouting Memories Project. The final decision on whether to publish any or all historical information rests with the Scout Executive.
- **Privacy Issues:** Public Domain historical information normally may be published, however information of a private nature should not, if advance written permission has not been provided. Attached, for reference, are national social media guidelines published by the Boy Scouts of America.
- **Copyright Issues:** Copyright infringement may deter publishing. Attached are Copyright Guidelines from the U.S. Copyright Office, The Library of Congress, for copyright laws to legally use images.
- **Youth Protection Issues:** Youth protection, particularly in the identification of youth in text, photographs, videos, and oral histories, should be carefully analyzed and vetted with the Scout Executive prior to publication in Scouting Memories. When both the Council Historian and Scout Executive have mutual concerns it is prudent not to publish specific content deemed questionable. Attached is document, "How to Use Images of Real People Without Violating Privacy and Publicity Rights".
- **Google Indexing/Searching Issues:** Googles Index/Search engines are in "discouragement mode" per SMP request not to index and share our website. The SMP lead programmer has tested our request and has found compliance.
- **Further Resources:**
 - <https://scoutingwire.org/social-media-guidelines/>
 - <https://www.copyrightlaws.org/legally-using-images>
 - <https://helensedwick.com/how-to-use-images-of-real-people-without-violating-privacy-and-publicity-rights/>

Please reach out to the Scouting Memories Leadership Team or the National Scouting Museum at ScoutingMemories@scouting.org if you have any questions or need clarification on the publishing policy.