University of Scouting: "Scouting the Internet" presented by Mark Crowner

Suggested Websites:
 Council web site: www.lhcbsa.org
  -sign up for Council emails
  -online calendar of events
  -Scouters News newsletter
  -training opportunities schedule
  -online rechartering
  -online advancement
  -forms, forms, and more forms!
  -staff directory
  -meeting planning resources
   Planned features include:
    -District pages
    -leader hints and tips video clips
    -maps showing locations of packs and troops

 National BSA site: www.scouting.org
  -great info on "what is Scouting?"
  -"My Scouting" - access to online training (http://olc.scouting.org)
  -recent rank & requirement changes
  -"Scouting Safely" resources
  -links to other Council websites
  -insignia guide

 www.thescoutzone.org Boy Scouts recruiting site
  -Great promotional site(s), one for boys, one for their parents
  -multimedia based info
  -troop locator

 www.joincubscouting.org   Cub Scouts recruiting site
  -Great promotional site(s), one for boys, one for their parents
  -multimedia based info
  -pack locator

 www.scoutstuff.org   Online Scout shop

Scout Skills & Advancement:
 www.mertibadge.org
 www.animatedknots.com

Songs & Skits/ Ceremonies:
 www.scoutorama.com
 www.boyscouttrail.com
 www.macscouter.com

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Using the Internet for more effective communication:

Websites are one piece of the Pack/Troop Communications Plan.
Email lists, phone calls, event fliers, printed calendars, etc., are equally important.

Websites:
        -accessible 24/7 to internal and external audiences
        -inexpensive to maintain
        -can include calendars, photo galleries, videos

        -have a plan to make the site sustainable (Who will be the next webmaster?)
        -have a public face and a private side to the site
        -have signed photo releases for photo video galleries
        -never include Scout names or private info on the public side of the site
        -include the when & where about your meetings

Emailing:
        -time-saving way to communicate to group
        -be short and to the point with your message
        -be periodic, your group will pay more attention if you do
        -include your telephone number, open the door for interaction with those who
                don't feel comfortable replying by email alone
        -don't "reply all" to engage the sender in a conversation
        -don't use for time-sensitive communication, some people don't check email
                regularly

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Here's some sites suggested by the Univ of Scouting class:
www.toothoftimetraders.com
www.rei.com
www.campmor.com
www.greatearthoutdoors.com