

# Troop Policies and Code of Conduct - Troop 2

## **OTHER TROOP POLICIES**

See page 7.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **Introduction/Intent**

The intent of this section of the Troop Policies is to outline the basic rules to help everyone to get the most out of Scouting, to have fun, and to be safe. These guidelines are intended to supplement the Boy Scouts of America's policies including the latest "Guide to Safe Scouting," and other national guidelines.

Scouts who see behaviors that may be unsafe or harmful should communicate their concerns to boy leaders or present adults. The preference of boy leaders and adults is for resolving conduct problems through communication rather than disciplinary action. Nevertheless, Scouts should understand that disciplinary action will be employed to preserve the safety and well-being of the Troop and all its members.

The term "Scoutmaster," when used in the context of a trip, function, or meeting, shall indicate the Scoutmaster, a Scoutmaster's designated adult leader, or adults in charge at the time.

### **Disruptive Behavior**

All Scouts are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Scout Law and Oath. Any disruptive behavior or deviation from the Oath or Law is subject to counseling and disciplinary action. If after counseling the Scout's behavior does not change, the Scoutmaster will submit an Incident Report in writing about the Scout's behavior for review and action by the Troop Committee.

1. The following are major deviations from acceptable behavior. These include actions that may endanger the safety of the Scout or others, and/or are in violation of any local, state, or federal laws:
  - a. Fighting, Striking, Threats of Violence, or Hazing or Harassment of Another Scout
  - b. Vandalism or Willful Disregard for Property
  - c. Using Matches or Starting Fires Without Authorization
  - d. Improper Use of Knives, Axes, and Other Equipment
  - e. Possession of Tobacco, Drugs or Alcohol
  - f. Possession of Fireworks, Firearms, Aerosol Cans, Explosive Devices, or Similar Materials
  - g. Unauthorized Departure from a Camp, Camping Area, or from Patrol/Troop Without Permission

- h. Failure to Obey the Direction of an Adult or Boy Leader or any Other Adult in Relation to any Issue Involving the Safety of any Person

The following minimal disciplinary steps will be employed:

1. *First Offense:* Scoutmaster will telephone a Scout's parent(s) or legal guardians
2. *Second Offense:* Scoutmaster/Parent/Scout Conference
3. *Third Offense:* Referral to Troop Committee for Disciplinary Action

Depending upon the severity of the action, or if multiple actions occur at one function, the Scoutmaster may escalate a first offense response to a second or third offense response. Also, at the discretion of the Scoutmaster, a dangerous or violent act may result in immediate dismissal from a Troop Function or Activity with a follow-up referral to the Troop Committee.

Violation of troop policies can result in the immediate removal of the Scout from the Troop Activity, and the parent must be available or make arrangements for the Scout to be picked up and returned home.

2. The following are also deviations from acceptable behavior and/or related to the Scout Oath and Scout Law:
  - a. Profanity
  - b. Possession of Pornographic Materials
  - c. Disrespect Shown to Adults or Other Scouts
  - d. Use of Electronic Equipment, unless specifically authorized by the Scoutmaster or his/her designee
  - e. Failure to respect the regulations of a Scout Reservation or any Other Facility in which the Troop Is a Guest

The following minimal disciplinary steps will be employed:

1. *First Offense:* Adult Leader will address the Scout in conference
2. *Second Offense:* Scoutmaster will telephone parent or legal guardian or conduct a Scoutmaster/Parent/Scout Conference
3. *Third Offense:* Referral to Troop Committee for Disciplinary Action

## **Reporting**

Preventing disruptive or dangerous behavior is for the benefit of the Troop and all of its individual members. Therefore, all boys are encouraged to report such behaviors to boy leaders or present adults. All reports will be treated confidentially. The names of boys who report incidents will remain anonymous.

## **Disciplinary Boards of Review**

If a Troop Disciplinary Board of Review is required, the Scout and a parent or guardian must attend. The Scout will not be permitted to attend troop functions while awaiting a Troop Disciplinary Board of Review. Possible courses of action may include, but are not limited to: Parental supervision at all or specific troop activities; suspension from one or more troop activities including meetings; removal of the Scout from office within the Troop; or dismissal from the Troop.

A Board of Disciplinary Review is made up of at least three and not more than six members of the troop committee. One member serves as chairman, usually the Committee Chair, unless he/she has designated another Chair responsible for this specific board. A Scout's unit leaders, assistant unit leaders, relatives, or guardians may not serve as members of his Disciplinary board of review.

The decision(s) of all boards of Disciplinary Review is arrived at through discussion and must be unanimous.

## **Dismissal from Troop**

Upon a unanimous vote for dismissal by the Committee members in attendance (The Committee Chairman and the Scoutmaster must be in attendance), the boy will be dismissed from the Troop. The Committee Chair will contact the Scout's parents.

## **Reinstatement**

A Scout who has been suspended or dismissed from the troop must appear before the Committee with a parent to apply for reinstatement. The reinstatement of the Scout is not automatic and will be by vote of the Committee.

## **Descriptions of Major Disruptive Behaviors**

### a. Fighting, Striking, Threats of Violence, or Hazing or Harassment of Another Scout

Troop 2 employs a zero tolerance policy for fighting, threats of violence, or hazing or harassment. Such behavior may be grounds for immediate disciplinary action. Parents will be called and required to take their Scout home.

### b. Vandalism or Willful Disregard for Property

Troop equipment is not the property of the individual Scout. Scouts will use the equipment in the proper manner. Scouts shall immediately report any damage to or loss of equipment to an adult leader or Senior Patrol Leader. If any equipment is damaged or destroyed by misuse, it will be repaired or replaced by the party responsible.

Parents will be held financially responsible for damage or loss caused by their children. Failure to repair or replace may result in disciplinary action.

### c. Using Matches or Starting Fires Without Authorization

Under no circumstances will there be open flames in a tent. Matches, lighters, or other items used for starting fires shall only be used to start a fire authorized by the Senior Patrol Leader or adult leader.

d. Improper Use of Knives, Axes, and Other Equipment

Scouts shall not carry or use knives or axes until they have earned the “Totin’ Chip.” Sheath knives are not allowed by Boy Scout regulations. Knives, axes, or any sharp object shall be used only for their intended purposes. If a Scout breaks this rule or handles one of these items in a threatening manner, his Totin’ Chip will be confiscated.

e. Possession of Tobacco, Drugs or Alcohol

Scouts in the possession of or using tobacco or alcohol at any Scout function or unauthorized drugs at any time will be subject to immediate dismissal from the troop. Adults will not smoke tobacco products or consume alcohol at any Scout function.

All medication (except for inhalers and anti-reaction medications) must be turned into the Scoutmaster or his designee prior to leaving on the outing. The instructions for its use must be provided in writing. All prescription and non-prescription medication must remain in their original containers. The Scoutmaster is to be informed of any inhalers or anti-reaction medications the Scout has in their possession. Notification of medical conditions and/or required medications to treat those conditions must be specified on the event permission slip for each outing. The parent of any Scout on medication or with known allergies shall notify the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster is not responsible for administering medication.

f. Possession of Fireworks, Firearms, Aerosol Cans, or Explosive Devices, and similar materials

Possession or use of the above items at any troop meeting, activity, function, or outing is strictly prohibited. Use of firearms will be allowed only under trained adult supervision.

g. Unauthorized Departure from a Camp or Camping Area, or from Patrol/Troop Without Permission

Scouts are not permitted to leave a camp or camping area, or from a patrol or Troop without permission. On all Scout activities and outings, Scouts will use the Buddy System. A Scout may not leave the camp area without having a buddy and without alerting his Patrol Leader of his destination and expected return.

h. Failure to Obey the Direction of an Adult or Boy Leader or any Other Adult in Relation to any Issue Involving the Safety of any Person

As stated earlier, “Scoutmaster” shall indicate the Scoutmaster, a Scoutmaster’s designated adult leader, or adults in charge at the time or a Scouting activity. Failure or unwillingness to obey the direction of an adult leader or boy leader – Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, or Patrol Leader – may result in a disciplinary action, particularly in regard to preserving the safety and well-being of the Troop and all its members.

## **Descriptions of Other Disruptive Behaviors**

a. Profanity

Swearing, cursing, and abusive/suggestive/offensive language and/or gestures are not in keeping with the ideals of Scouting, and will not be allowed. The repeated use of inappropriate language shall be grounds for disciplinary action. This shall include wearing clothing (for example, a t-shirt) with language, images, or symbols which would be considered objectionable to another person.

b. Possession of Pornographic Materials

Possession of any type of pornographic material by troop members during any troop meeting, activity, function, or outing is strictly prohibited. These materials will be confiscated, and any violation of this policy – a BSA National Policy – will result in a Scoutmaster/Parent Conference.

c. Disrespect Shown to Adults or Other Scouts

Civil, respectful behavior is necessary during all troop activities, including meetings and outdoor activities. Indeed, respectful behavior is a primary ingredient of showing Scout Spirit, which is an important requirement for advancement. Scouts will show respect at all times for those boys serving as patrol and troop leaders, as well as for adults serving in leadership capacities.

d. Electronic Equipment

Electronic games, iPods, cell phones, CD players, televisions and the like are not allowed at any troop function, unless specifically permitted by the Scoutmaster. These items will be confiscated if found at any troop activity and will be returned at the end of the activity. On a camping trip or similar function, cell phones and other electronic devices will be locked in a vehicle or similar location and returned to the scout at the end of the event. If parents need to make contact, they can call the adult leaders, whose cell phone numbers will be made available. If a Scout needs to telephone home, then he can ask to use an adult leader's phone.

e. Failure to Respect the Regulations of a Scout Reservation or any Other Facility at which the Troop Is a Guest

When the Troop travels to a Scout Reservation or other facility at which it is a guest, everyone – Scouts and Adult Leaders alike – shall abide by and respect the rules and regulations of that facility. Failure and/or unwillingness to do so will result in an appropriate disciplinary action.

## **Chain of Command (Ordinary Order and Conduct)**

As a Boy Scout troop, Troop 2 is intended to be a boy-led experience. Therefore, routine order and conduct in the patrols will be handled by Patrol Leaders, who have the authority to ask any patrol member to leave a patrol meeting and report to the Senior Patrol Leader.

When the Patrol Leader cannot handle the problem, he must obtain help from the Senior Patrol Leader. Ordinarily, the only person the SPL will accept a complaint from is the PL. The SPL has the authority to request that the Scout leave the meeting area and report to the Scoutmaster.

When the SPL cannot handle the problem, he must obtain the help of the Scoutmaster. The only person that the Scoutmaster will ordinarily accept a complaint from is the SPL.

When the Scoutmaster is approached with a complaint, the complaint will be recorded on the Scout's record. Note the following actions:

1. First Senior Patrol Leader Complaint: Conference with the Scoutmaster
2. Second Senior Patrol Leader Complaint: Conference with the Scoutmaster and a phone call to parents explaining the problem and stating that one more complaint may result in a suspension for one month. Parent(s) may be requested to attend meetings to help supervise their Scout. The Scout may be requested to appear before a Board of Review as a lesser disciplinary action prior to suspension from troop activities.
3. Third Senior Patrol Leader Complaint: Conference with the Scoutmaster and parents. The Scout may be suspended from all troop activities for a period of time as recommended by the Scoutmaster.

The above steps are not meant to discourage either the Patrol Leaders or the Senior Patrol Leaders from seeking advice from the Scoutmaster or any adult leader when they are encountering leadership challenges. They are intended as discipline options, and Scout leaders should remember and use this chain of command.

Further, the above is not intended to prevent any Scout from approaching the Scoutmaster to report an urgent matter, or a serious violation of this Code of Conduct. Indeed, the Scoutmaster and other Adult Leaders are here to listen and guide the boys in developing a life-long, self-regulated, appropriate approach to their own conduct.

## Other Troop Policies

Troop Dues: Troop dues/renewal fees are reviewed yearly and established prior to re-chartering. Dues are used for troop fees, BSA registration, accident insurance, Boy's Life magazine, operating costs to support the Scout's advancement, purchase and/or repair of equipment and Troop Courts of Honor.

Costs for Food, Transportation, etc.: The patrol grubmaster for the outing is responsible for staying within his budget. The costs will be shared equally by each member of the patrol going on the outing and they will reimburse the troop or after the outing. Any Scout who drops out at the last minute is still responsible for the costs of the food and/or transportation, or any other trip-related expenses, even though he is unable to attend.

Permission Slips: Each Scout MUST have a permission slip for that activity signed by a parent or guardian. Always follow the Outdoor Code on a camping trip. Always get the adult leader's permission before leaving the camping area. Always leave the camping area with a buddy and stay with him at all times.

Patrol Method: Scouts are organized into groups or patrols of no more than 8 Scouts. The patrol consists of an elected Patrol Leader (PL) and appointed Assistant Patrol Leader (APL). The Patrol Leader is responsible for the participation and discipline of his patrol. The PL and APL must attend Junior Leadership Training in order to hold these positions. Weekly Patrol Leader meetings are held to assist leaders.

Buddy System: On all Scout activities and outings, Scouts will use the Buddy System. A Scout may not leave the camp area without having a buddy and without alerting his Patrol Leader of his destination and expected return.

Uniforms: The Official BSA Field Uniform (Class A) will be worn to all Scouting activities, including troop meetings and travel to campouts, summer camp, and High Adventure, unless otherwise specified by the Scoutmaster. Scouts will be allowed to change to Activity Uniforms (Class B) or other appropriate attire after arrival. **The Activity Uniform is an official "T2" t-shirt in lieu of the tan shirt, plus the other components of the Field uniform. Other regulations on the uniform are posted on the troop website and may be updated form time to time.** Travel uniform may be changed due to cold weather conditions. A Scout must be in a complete Field Uniform when meeting a Board of Review. Scouts shall be properly attired and equipped for any troop activity. An adult leader in charge has sole discretion to prohibit participation if, in his or her sole judgment, the Scout is not properly attired and/or equipped.

**I have read, understand, and agree to comply with the above Code of Conduct and Other Troop Policies**

Scout: (signature) \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(print) \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent: (signature) \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(print) \_\_\_\_\_