



Troop 29 Conduct and Discipline Policy

Guide to Safe Scouting:

Troop 29 follows BSA rules and policies in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, available online at: <http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS/toc.aspx>. This *Troop 29 Conduct and Discipline Policy* is designed to further clarify conduct and discipline at the troop level.

Scout Conduct:

Good behavior is essential to any program and will be strongly supported by Troop 29's youth leaders (scouts) and adult leaders (Scouters). Good behavior is a primary element of showing Scout Spirit, and is a requirement for advancement. The troop's level of authority is as follows:

Troop Committee
Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster
Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)
Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)
Patrol Leader (PL)
Assistant Patrol Leader (APL)

In each instance, the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or any adult will have the final authority. The purpose of the authority structure is not to remove authority from the scouts, but to augment and uphold their responsibility. It is not to be construed as bossing other Scouts around or making some Scouts do more than their fair share. However, fellow Scouts must recognize this structure and be willing to participate and assist others as requested.

Scouts will not participate in any activity that could be considered dangerous to their fellow Scout. These include but are not limited to hazing, harassing, abuse of fire or flammable materials, or abuse of sharp instruments.

Scouts will conduct themselves properly during all Troop 29 activities. If the behavior isn't allowed at school or church, it's not acceptable behavior. During all meetings and activities, when the Scout sign is held up, all Scouts and adults shall immediately cease talk and movement, and display the same sign.

The Scout Field Uniform (Class A) is to be worn at all Troop 29 events from September –May. From June – August Scouts may wear any BSA endorsed shirt (Class B). Field uniforms are also permitted during the summer. Scouts are required to wear their Field Uniform (Class A) while traveling to and from any event related to BSA. Scouts must wear their uniforms in a manner that will reflect credit upon themselves, the Troop, the Charter Organization, and BSA. This means: Clean, neat, tucked-in, buttoned, and with appropriate insignia.

During the patrol activity session of the troop meetings, Scouts will be with their assigned patrol unless given permission by their Patrol Leader to meet with the Scoutmaster, go to the restroom, etc. It is necessary for the Patrol Leader to know the whereabouts of his Scouts.

Visitors are always welcome to attend troop meetings; however, approval from the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters is required one week prior to the meeting.

No Scout will leave the campsite without the permission of the Patrol Leader or his designate. Patrol Leaders will get permission from the Senior Patrol Leader in order to leave the area. Disciplinary

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problems on campouts and activities will not be tolerated. Scouts who cannot behave themselves will be sent home.

Buddy System:

Scouts will follow BSA's Buddy System whenever appropriate. Examples include water activities, whenever a Scout is to go beyond visual range of a campsite, instances where Scouts are interacting with large groups of people not known by the troop, and whenever the Scoutmaster declares the Buddy System is in effect.

Discipline:

General: The approach to discipline in Scouting is simple and the doors of Scouting are always open to those who strive to follow the ideals of Scouting. Adherence to the *Troop 29 Conduct and Discipline Policy* is required to maintain safety, preclude property damage, and avoid disrupting other organizations activities.

Obedience: Obedience in Troop 29 means to follow the *Scout Oath* and the *Scout Law*. The *Oath* and *Law* make being a good citizen of the troop, camp, or community possible. Obedience to the Scout Law includes respect for Scout (youth) leaders and adult leaders and all members and guests of the troop. Respect for adult and Scout leadership is expected. Under NO circumstances will adult or Scout Leaders administer physical punishment for any reason. Hazing, of any type, will not be tolerated. Scouts or adults observing such activity will take immediate measures to stop such activity.

Enforcing Discipline:

1. Scout leaders, (SPL,ASPL,PL) are responsible for maintaining troop discipline.
2. Discipline in patrols will be handled by the Patrol Leaders. Patrol Leaders have the authority to ask any patrol member to change his behavior and/or leave a patrol meeting and report to the SPL (Senior Patrol Leader). An adult leader must be notified of actions taken.
3. When the Patrol Leader cannot handle the problem, he must obtain help from the Senior Patrol Leader. The Senior Patrol Leader has the authority to ask a Scout to leave the meeting area and report to the Scoutmaster.
4. When the Senior Patrol Leader cannot handle the problem, he must obtain the help of the Scoutmaster.
5. When the Scoutmaster determines that a Scout requires discipline, the following actions are taken:
 - a. **First Instance** – Conference with the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster. All such conferences should be attended by an appropriate Boy Scout Leader and by another adult leader.
 - b. **Second Instance** – Conference with the Scoutmaster and a phone call to parents explaining the problem and stating that one more complaint may result in suspension for a period of time established by the severity of the offence. A written explanation of the offense will also be prepared to back-up the phone call. One copy will be given to the parents, another to the Troop Committee Chair (in case further action is necessary). Parents may be requested to attend meetings to help supervise their Scout. The Scout may be assigned to appear before a board of Committee members or the PLC as a lesser disciplinary action prior to suspension from troop activities.
 - c. **Third Instance** – Conference with the Scoutmaster, Committee Chair, and parents. Based on the Scoutmaster's recommendation, the Scout may be suspended from all Troop activities for a period of time as established by the Scoutmaster.
 - d. **Fourth Instance** – The issue is referred to the full Troop Committee by the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair with a recommendation of action and the circumstances for the referral.

The Troop Committee may proceed immediately with any level of discipline without conducting previous lower levels of discipline, if the Committee deems the severity of the circumstances warrant such action.

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6. The above steps are not meant to discourage either the Patrol Leader or Senior Patrol leader from seeking advice from the Scoutmaster or any adult leader when they are having leadership challenges, but are intended to state discipline options in advance.
7. In extreme cases, a Scout may be recommended for dismissal from the Troop. This action means that only by agreement from the Troop Committee will the Scout be permitted to return to the troop. Dismissal will only be carried out by the Troop Committee. In the case of a dismissal, a letter to the Scout's parents will be sent outlining the reasons for the dismissal and the alternatives for returning to the troop.
8. If a Scout is disruptive during any event (meeting, camping trip, day trip, etc.) and it is determined by the adult leader of the event that the Scout's continued presence will continue to be disruptive, the parents of the scout will be called (anytime; day or night) to come and get the Scout.
9. If a Scout feels he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline by another scout, he may seek help from the Senior Patrol Leader. A Scout who feels that he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline by the Senior Patrol Leader may seek help from the Scoutmaster, and a Scout who feels that he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline by the Scoutmaster may seek help from the Troop Committee Chair.

Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco:

No Scout shall use, possess, and/or distribute tobacco or any controlled substance (drugs and alcohol). Parents of a Scout found to have used, possessed, or distributed a controlled substance at a Scouting function will be subject to immediate disciplinary action. Parents of Scouts required to take prescription medication over the period of a troop event are required to present the medications required during the event to the Activity coordinator along with a troop medication form indicating medication type, dose, frequency and emergency contact information prior to any Scout leaving with the Troop on an event. Serious medical requirements may require a parent to attend an event and administer medication.

Fighting:

Troop 29 has a zero tolerance policy for fighting. Fighting is not permitted and is grounds for immediate disciplinary action. Parents will be called and asked to take their Scout home.

Language and Respect:

Foul language, swearing, cursing and abusive/suggestive/offensive gestures are not in keeping with the ideals of Scouting and will not be allowed. A Scout is *Reverent, Courteous, and Clean*.

Disrespectful language to any Scout or to any adult is not allowed.

Electronics Use:

In general, portable electronic devices are contrary to the basic Scouting outdoor program philosophy. As such Troop 29's general electronics policy position is to *forbid the use and possession of electronic devices*. However, it is recognized by the Leadership of the Troop that such devices have become a ubiquitous part of society and should be blended into the Scouting experience in a productive a practical manner. As such, the following rules apply:

Electronic devices are categorized into three categories: communication, positioning and personal:

1. Communication devices include, but are not limited to: cell phones, cell-enabled devices, shortwave ("ham") radios, and two-way radios.
2. Positioning devices include, but are not limited to: Handheld Global Positioning Systems (GPS), powered compasses, etc.

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3. Personal electronic devices include, but are not limited to: iPods, iPads, Surface, wifi enabled devices, MP3 Players, handheld video devices such as Video Players, Game Boy, Nintendo DS, and all other such handheld gaming systems. Single function digital cameras are also covered under this category.

Communication Devices:

- No communication devices are permitted to be used by scouts at any time unless under the direct supervision and with the permission of an adult leader.
- Personal or Troop owned communication devices such as two-way radios will only be used as necessary and under strict supervision and approval by the Scoutmaster (or designee) and Senior Patrol Leader.

Positioning Devices:

- GPS, and other similar devices, are to be used in conjunction with training or hiking/pack packing outings as deemed appropriate by the Scoutmaster (or designee) and Senior Patrol Leader.
- All positioning devices will be stowed unless in approved operation.

Personal Electronic Devices:

- No personal electronic devices may be used during Troop meetings, outings or other Troop sponsored events. Use of such devices will result in confiscation by the Troop leadership for the remainder of the event.
- Portable music players and game systems are not permitted on trips unless stated beforehand. Exceptions may be made on some trips with long travel times, but devices will remain in the vehicles and under direct adult control when we are not traveling.
 - There will be no sharing of ear buds for sanitary reasons.
 - No sharing of the music via splitters or passing the ipod over to another scout to plug in their headphones / ear buds as a means of controlling content and varying parental permissions to what is deemed appropriate music.
 - Shared video devices are permitted only after content has been considered and approved by the adult leader in charge.
- Single-function, non-internet connected, digital cameras are permitted to record Unit activities only. Inappropriate use of cameras, imaging, or digital devices is prohibited. Images are subject to adult review at any time and images recorded that are deemed inappropriate by law, will be immediately turned over to law enforcement officials, per BSA policies.
- Computers. The term “computer” is defined as any electronic computational device capable of accessing the Internet, by any method, or a device capable of storing off line data of any format that can display that data to anyone else.
 - Unless having requested and received permission from the Unit leader, his authorized designee, or his approved, registered merit badge counselor, no Scout shall possess or use a computer while attending any Unit activity. Permission to use a computer must be requested for each use.

Exceptions to these rules include the following:

- Electronic medical devices, such as insulin pumps, hearing aides, or glucometers used by Scouts or Adult Leaders are exempted from these rules. Scouts requiring electronic medical devices must be trained in their proper use and alert adult leaders that the device is in their possession.
- At least one Adult Leader will carry a cell phone on their person at all times during Troop outings.

Consequence of Policy Violation:

Confiscation of personal electronic devices shall be done in accordance with this policy and may be acted upon by any Adult Leader, the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistance Senior Patrol Leader, or Patrol Leader.

Any confiscated device will be given to the Scoutmaster (or designee) at the earliest practical time after confiscation occurs. In general, confiscated devices will remain in the possession of the Scoutmaster (or designee) until the end of the Troop event, unless determined otherwise by the Scoutmaster (or designee).

A scout is Obedient. Scouts found in violation of this electronics policy will be disciplined under this Discipline Policy.

Adult Leader Conduct:

Adult leaders shall exhibit the ideals of Scouting when working with the boys. They will strive to set a good example in their handling of all situations. Standards of conduct in personal habits, language, hygiene, and interaction with Scouts will be in accordance with the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. The Committee Chair is responsible for the conduct of adult leaders. Conduct befitting a Scout is expected of adult participants as well, especially in regards to the Do's and Don'ts.

Do's and Don'ts: Selected Examples:

The Boy Scouts of America prohibit the securing, use, and display of fireworks in conjunctions with programs and activities, except where the fireworks display is conducted under the auspices of a certified or licensed fireworks control expert. Scouts of Troop 29 are prohibited from possessing or using fireworks on any Troop 29 activity.

Scouts are not permitted to possess firearms. Firearms will be permitted at troop meetings only if the troop program calls for such activities. Any such activity must have prior approval of the Scoutmaster and the Troop Committee.

Sheath knives are not permitted. Lock-blade and pocket-knives are permitted, but the blade may not exceed 3 inches. Scouts carrying pocket-knives must have their *Totin' Chip* card in their possession as prescribed by the BSA training requirements. If the *Totin' Chip* is not on the Scout's person, the knife will be confiscated and returned at the end of the activity.

Sexually explicit materials in ANY media format shall not be brought to Scout activities. If found, such materials will be confiscated and returned to the parents of any scout involved.

The Scoutmaster or adult leader has the authority to confiscate all items deemed inappropriate or dangerous. Personal items confiscated may be returned to the Scout's parents.

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Both parents/guardians (unless the Scout is living with a single, separated, or widowed parent/guardian) and the Scout must sign the page below and return it to the Troop Committee Chair. Full agreement, legible signing, and returning of this sheet are a condition of registration and participation in Troop 29.

Parent/Guardian #1 Name Printed: _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Parent/Guardian #2 Name Printed: _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Scout Name Printed: _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____