

Forward

Great steps are taken to insure that Scouting events happen in a friendly, safe and supportive environment where Scouts have fun, learn and grow. The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is a values-based development organization that helps boys learn positive attributes of character, citizenship, and personal fitness. The BSA has the expectation that all participants in the Scouting program will relate to each other in accord with the principles embodied in the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

Misbehavior by a single Scout or group of Scouts in the troop will not only diminish the enjoyment of the activity, but may also constitute a threat to the safety of the individual or group who misbehaves as well as to the safety of other troop members. Such misbehavior constitutes an unreasonable burden on our troop and cannot be ignored.

We strive to provide our Scouts with a fun, safe and enjoyable scouting experience. Our Adult Leaders donate many resources, dollars and hours of their free time to achieve this goal. All Adult Leaders should be given respect by everyone associated with the troop. Directions given by Adult Leaders must be obeyed for the good of all Scouts. Failure to do so may result in parental notification and possibly dismissal from that Scouting function or from the unit itself. We want all boys to participate in all activities, but we also want our Scouts to learn that their decisions impact themselves and those around them.

Boy Scout Troop 108 has established the Code of Conduct on the following pages to provide Scouts, Parents, and Adult Leaders with a framework of expectations and disciplinary actions for all members of the Troop. This Code of Conduct will help ensure a common language and understanding for behavioral expectations and consequences, allowing us all to create an atmosphere conducive to fun, safety, and the values of Scouting.

Along with the Code of Conduct we have also included the Scout Oath and Scout Law, both of which have been broken down into terms that Scouts can easily understand. This is to help our Scouts realize that if they truly live by the Scout Oath and the Scout Law in what they do and what they say, that they never go wrong.

The Scout and his parent or guardian will keep this entire packet of information to refer to as needed. The last page will be signed by both the scout and the parent/guardian indicating that they have read, understand and will abide by the Code of Conduct and will be retained by the troop in its records. Upon any revision or addition to the Code of Conduct, Scouts and Parents can sign the acknowledgement page again indicating that they are aware of the updated information and that they intent to abide by the revisions.

Troop 108 Code Of Conduct For Scouts

Each Scout and participating adult shall practice living by the Scout Oath and Scout Law in everyday life, as well as, at all scouting functions. In addition to the policies contained in this document, all policies and procedures written in the Guide to Safe Scouting and The Boy Scout Leader Book apply as well.

Participation in the BSA program is a privilege, which carries responsibilities of all involved in order to carry out our objectives. The policies contained in this document are for ensuring safety and enjoyment for all scouting members.

Troop membership depends upon acceptance of the Troop 108 Code of Conduct.

Troop 108 Code of Conduct applies to the Boy Scouts, Adult Scouters and all Parent Participants as well as other family participants.

1. Each Person shall show respect to Adult Leaders/Parent participants, as well as his fellow scouts at all times.
2. Foul language, inappropriate games/behavior, or verbal/physical abuse will not be tolerated at any time.
3. Each person will respect other Scouts/Scouters property at all times. Nothing will be taken or used without the permission of the other person. If you break/lose another person's property, you will pay for it, regardless if you had permission or not.
4. During meetings/outings Scouts will be confined to the meeting/outing area. Permission to leave the area must be obtained from an Adult Leader/Parent participant, noting the specific need to leave the area, and must follow the buddy system. The meeting area must be kept neat and left clean, including the bathroom area.
5. Electronic devices (limited to cell phones, electronic tablets, digital cameras and any medically necessary devices) are currently allowed to be brought to troop meetings and outings. However, if the electronic devices start becoming a problem that disrupts planned activities, they will be confiscated and held by the adult leaders until the scout brings a parent/guardian to discuss why the device was confiscated and what steps can be taken to prevent it from happening again.
6. The Boy Scouts of America prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances at encampments or activities on property owned and/or operated by the Boy Scouts of America, or at any activity involving participation of youth members. Prescription drugs must be checked according to BSA policy.

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7. No guns or other weapons can be brought to a scouting event except for tools described in the totin chip booklet. The Scouts who have the totin chip are able to carry a knife as long as they follow the proper safety procedures. Each time they act in an unsafe way with their knife they will have a corner cut off their totin chip. Once all corners are cut off, they will have their totin chip removed from their possession and then, if desired, they may take the session again. The Scouts that wish to earn their totin chip at the event may bring their knife. When they get to the event, they must hand their knife to an adult leader. When going to the totin chip session they must ask a fellow scout who has their totin chip to carry it to the totin chip session.
8. Failure to follow any of the rules above, as well as the National BSA policy outlined in the Guide to Safe Scouting booklet, will result in one or more of the following actions:

Troop 108 Code of Conduct for Troop 108 Parents (or Guardians)

- ♣ I will assist my son in learning the Troop 108 Code of Conduct for Scouts.
- ♣ I will also be asked to participate in Troop activities from time to time.
- ♣ I will work with Adult Leaders as requested to ensure all boys follow the code.
- ♣ I will act as a role model, demonstrating proper behaviors, language, etc.
- ♣ I will stop all activities in response to the Boy Scout Sign and silently return the sign.
- ♣ I understand that I may be asked to take conversations outside of the meeting room if they become disruptive to the meeting.
- ♣ I will be responsible for the conduct of my non-Scout children for the entire duration of all Scouting activities. Attendance by siblings is at the discretion of the Adult Leader.
- ♣ I will be asked to remove disruptive children from these activities.
- ♣ I will not use alcohol, tobacco products, or illegal drugs while at Scout functions. See policy for Prescription Drugs.

Disciplinary Actions – General Troop Membership

1. The **first** form of discipline will be a firm verbal warning that the action the scout performed was not acceptable and should be corrected immediately. This warning may come from one of the youth leaders of the troop or from one of the adult staff and should be taken seriously.
2. The **second** step in the disciplinary process involves the completion of a distasteful task (hopefully somehow related to the action the scout is being disciplined for). This may be anything from tidying troop gear to learning and teaching a scouting skill to other scouts. The scout may not participate in troop activities until this level of the disciplinary process is completed. As an alternative, the scout may write a letter of apology detailing what occurred and what the scout plans to do to make sure that it doesn't happen again and after approval from the Scoutmaster, read it during the announcements portion of a troop meeting or before a meal during an outing.
3. The **third** level of discipline involves suspending the scout from the remainder of the current activity, calling the parents to come for a conference regarding the discipline problem, and not allowing the scout to attend the next troop outing. This level may also include calling parents to come pick up or otherwise arrange transportation home for the scout from the outing. The Scoutmaster has the final say so concerning actions on this discipline level.
4. The **fourth** and final level of discipline calls for passing the issue completely over to the troop committee to resolve as they see fit. This relieves the troop's adult leaders from dealing with the issue and allows them to tend to the ongoing health and activity of the troop.

The following items can result in the scout's direct movement to the third or fourth level with Scoutmaster approval:

1. Being disrespectful to anyone (Youth and / or Adult)
2. Complete disregard for the Scout Oath or any point of the Scout Law.

Disciplinary Actions – Troop Youth Leaders

The guidelines described for general troop members also apply to youth leaders (any troop level office). Any youth leader reaching the third or greater level of discipline is automatically removed from office.

Each youth leader can acquire up to three strikes against him during his term of office. With the acquisition of the third strike the youth leader is removed from office.

Strikes are given as follows:

- ♣ Missing a leadership activity without Scoutmaster approval.
- ♣ Missing a scout function where your leadership is needed without Scoutmaster approval
- ♣ Not leading where you are obviously able and qualified to do so.
- ♣ Reaching the second level of discipline outlined on page 1 of this document.

Youth Leaders can remove strikes from their records in the following ways:

- ♣ Being active in youth leadership for a period of two (2) months without acquiring additional strikes will remove one (1) strike.
- ♣ Exemplary leadership demonstrated above and beyond the call of duty can result in removal of one strike by the Scoutmaster or any adult leader with the Scoutmaster's approval.

The Scout Oath, Motto, Slogan, Law and Outdoor Code - From A Boy's Perspective

I am expected to live by the Scout Law, Scout Oath, and Outdoor Code, and I will remember that these are the basis for all the following rules and should be the basis for all of my actions. I am expected to always perform the Motto and live by the Slogan.

1. Scout Oath:

- ♣ *On my honor* - I make this promise
- ♣ *I will do my best* - I will always try to give my best effort
- ♣ *To do my duty to God* - I am a member of a faith based organization
- ♣ *and my country* - I support our nation and the freedom it provides all people
- ♣ *and to obey the Scout Law* - I will use the Scout Law as a summary of my character
- ♣ *To help other people at all times* - I am called on in times of need
- ♣ *To keep myself* - I can only truly control myself
- ♣ *physically strong* - I will keep myself healthy
- ♣ *mentally awake* - I don't use substances that dull my thoughts
- ♣ *and morally straight* - I will behave ethically and fairly

2. Motto:

Be prepared - I will plan well for all outings and bring the appropriate gear. I will seek knowledge of the skills and practices found in the Boy Scout Handbook and from the experience of Youth and Adult Leaders to prepare myself for being a leader of men.

3. Slogan:

Do a good turn daily - I will strive each day to find a way to help people. I will look to do good deeds without seeking reward.

4. What the Scout Law Means to Me:

The Scout Law is a summary of personal characteristics that I pledge to follow.

♣ **Trustworthy** - I tell the truth. I keep my promises. Honesty is part of my code of conduct. Cheating is never an option. People can depend on me.

- ♣ I am expected to be on time for all Troop activities.
- ♣ I am expected to call my Adult Leader if I will be unable to attend a troop activity, especially if I signed up in advance. If no notice is provided, I lose any and all fees paid for the activity.
- ♣ I will respect the property of others.

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- ✦ I am expected to not take anything owned by anyone else without first asking permission.
- ✦ I am expected to enter only my assigned tent.

✦ **Loyal** - I am true to my family, leaders, friends, community and nation. I will bring to the attention of an Adult Leader or Senior Patrol Leader any situation that I am not comfortable with and not take matters into my own hands.

- ✦ I will lend an encouraging word.
- ✦ I will cheer others on (We do not "boo" other Scouts or Units).
- ✦ I am expected to remain an active member of the Troop. See glossary for definition of "Active Member". *The Troop Committee must approve any exceptions.
- ✦ I am expected to pay for damage I cause. I am responsible for to any property owned by a camp I am visiting, the Troop, or another individual.
- ✦ I am expected to avoid inappropriate behavior which could cause the Troop to lose its privilege to use facilities or any other meeting place. Any activity of this nature will not be tolerated.

✦ **Helpful** - I am concerned about the needs of other people. I do things willingly for others without expecting compensation or reward.

- ✦ I am expected to use the buddy system on all Troop activities.

✦ **Friendly** - I am a friend to all. I am a brother to others in my group. I seek to understand others.

- ✦ I will respect those with ideas and customs other than my own.
- ✦ I am expected to not do anything that causes danger to myself or others.

✦ **Courteous** - I am polite to everyone, regardless of age or position. I know good manners make it easier for people to get along together. The correct response to all adults is either "Yes, Sir", "No, Sir", "Yes, Ma'am" or "No, Ma'am". The correct response to another scout is, at a minimum, "Yes" or "No".

- ✦ I am expected to avoid excessively rowdy, unruly, loud, disrespectful, disobedient, or disruptive behavior.
- ✦ I am expected to show attention and respect to others.
- ✦ I am expected to listen.
- ✦ I am expected to respond to the Boy Scout Sign by stopping what I am doing and silently returning the sign.
- ✦ I am expected to respect one another, my Parents, the Adult Leaders, any Guests, and the American flag.

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♣ **Kind** - I understand there is strength in being gentle. I treat others as they want to be treated. I do not hurt or kill plants or animals without reason. I will consider the feelings of other scouts and adults.

- ♣ I am expected to never engage in hazing or harassment of others.
- ♣ I am expected to avoid doing anything, either physically or verbally, that will make another person feel uncomfortable or put them in a situation in which they feel threatened.
- ♣ I am expected to abide by a "hands-off" policy with fellow Scouts and Adult Leaders, unless participating in a Adult designated contact game or skill.

♣ **Obedient** - I follow the rules of my family, group and organization. I obey the laws of my community and country. If I think these rules and laws are unfair, I try to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobey them. For a Scout's safety, Adults are in charge and must be obeyed.

- ♣ I am expected to follow the instructions/directives given to me by Junior Leaders or Adult Leaders.
- ♣ I am expected to follow the posted or verbal schedule of activities and assignments specified by the Troop Leadership.
- ♣ I am expected to refrain from any unsafe actions which may endanger myself or others.
- ♣ I am expected to remain in designated areas unless given specific permission by an Adult Leader. Exploring physical hazards (lakes, creeks, etc.) without permission, supervision and using the Buddy System can be highly dangerous to the point of being life threatening.
- ♣ I am expected to understand that "lights-out" will occur at an appointed time, at which I will be in bed and quiet.
- ♣ I am expected to become thoroughly familiar with the objectives and guidelines of the Boy Scout program, strive to achieve these objectives, and communicate them appropriately.
- ♣ I am expected to understand the meaning and importance of the BSA Youth Protection Guidelines and agree to conduct myself in accordance with the guidelines. If I have not done so, I will complete Youth Protection Training before the next Scout outing.

❖ **SPECIAL NOTE:** Scouts will always maintain the "Rule of Three" -- individual Scouts will never be alone with an adult leader to which he is not related but will always seek to be in the presence of a second adult leader or another Scout.

- ♣ I am expected to familiarize myself with the Guide to Safe Scouting, and I agree to follow its rules and policies (Search on www.Scouting.Org) and the Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America.

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- ♣ I am expected to obey the safety rules and instructions of all Youth and Adult Leaders and use positive reinforcement and communication. At District or Council events, as well as at BSA camps, all camp staff have the right and responsibility of helping and correcting any problem they encounter. I will follow the directions of all Adult and Youth Leaders as if they were my troop's Adult Leaders.
- ♣ I am expected to refrain from the use of any electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, radios, CD/DVD players, game devices, iPods, laser pointers, radios, cell phones, PDAs) during any troop meetings or events, unless permission has been received from an Adult Leader. If found, such devices will be returned to the Parents of the Scout.
- ♣ I am expected to possess a "Totin Chip" to utilize any bladed tools (including, but not limited to knives, saws, and axes). I will have the Scoutmaster approve all tools I intend to bring to Scouting Activities.
- ♣ I am expected to possess a "Fireman' Chit" to utilize matches/lighters, to build fires, or to use camp stoves/grills.

♣ **Cheerful** - I look for the bright side of things. I try to make others happy. I smile while I work, it goes faster, and that makes more time for fun.

- ♣ I am expected to gladly offer help when asked.
- ♣ I am expected to always DO MY BEST!

♣ **Thrifty** - I work to pay my way.

- ♣ I am expected to save for unforeseen needs.
- ♣ I am expected to protect and conserve natural resources.
- ♣ I am expected to carefully use time and property.

♣ **Brave** - I can face danger even if I am afraid. Fear does not control me, it only warns me of potential danger. Living the Scout Law is part of the "Scout Spirit" requirement necessary for Rank Advancement. Older Scouts will lead by showing the best examples of Scout Spirit regardless of what others might think.

- ♣ I am expected to support other Boy Scouts in their efforts.
- ♣ I am expected to stand for what I think is right even if others laugh at or threaten me.

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♣ **Clean** - I keep my body and mind fit and clean. My friends are those who believe in living by these same ideals. I help keep my home and community clean. I am clean in body, mind, and speaking. I wear the uniform with PRIDE - clean, neat, and complete - to all Scouting events as instructed. I will be responsible for keeping my tent and personal gear labeled, clean, and neat.

- ♣ I am expected to refrain from using profanity or abusive language.
- ♣ I am expected to demonstrate respect for Troop equipment, public property, and will be personally responsible for cleanliness and any loss, breakage, or vandalism of property.
- ♣ I am expected to show respect for our surroundings, indoors and out, leaving them in as good or better condition than when they were found.
- ♣ I am expected to refrain from the use or possession of any alcoholic beverages, tobacco, illegal drugs/controlled substances, unauthorized firearms, traditional & martial arts fighting weapons, and pornography. This is a zero tolerance policy. If found, I will immediately be suspended from the Troop. My parents and the police will be notified immediately. See Troop Prescription Drug Policy.

♣ **Reverent** - I am reverent toward God. I am faithful in my religious duties.

- ♣ I am expected to hold God in reverence
- ♣ I am expected to attend worship services, if provided, on outings.
- ♣ I will respect the beliefs of others.

5. Outdoor Code:

As an American, I will do my best to—
Be clean in my outdoor manners
Be careful with fire
Be considerate in the outdoors
Be conservation-minded

- ♣ *Be clean in my outdoor manners* - I will treat the outdoors as a heritage. I will take care of it for myself and others. I will keep my trash and garbage out of lakes, streams, fields, woods, and roadways.
- ♣ *Be careful with fire* - I will prevent wildfire. I will build my fires only when and where they are appropriate. When I have finished using a fire, I will make sure it is cold out. I will leave a clean fire ring, or remove all evidence of my fire.
- ♣ *Be considerate in the outdoors* - I will treat public and private property with respect. I will follow the principles of Leave No Trace for all outdoor activities.
- ♣ *Be conservation-minded* - I will learn about and practice good conservation of soil, waters, forests, minerals, grasslands, wildlife, and energy. I will urge others to do the same.

TROOP 108 CODE OF CONDUCT ACKNOWLEDEMENT

SCOUT:

I, Boy Scout _____, along with my parents have received and reviewed the “Troop 108 Code of Conduct” packet and agree to abide by those rules and regulations of conduct and behavior of Troop 108 and the Boy Scouts of America. I understand and agree to the consequences involved should I fail to do so at any time. Signed and dated:

Scout _____ Date _____ Version _____
Scout _____ Date _____ Version _____
Scout _____ Date _____ Version _____
Scout _____ Date _____ Version _____
Scout _____ Date _____ Version _____
Scout _____ Date _____ Version _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN:

We, the parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) of Boy Scout _____ have received and reviewed the “Troop 108 Code of Conduct” with our Boy Scout, and agree to abide with the rules and regulations of Troop 108 and the Boy Scouts of America. We understand and agree to the consequences involved should we fail to do so at any time. Signed and dated:

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____ Version _____
Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____ Version _____
Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____ Version _____
Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____ Version _____
Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____ Version _____
Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____ Version _____

**This form is required to be signed and returned. This information will be reviewed with the Scouts and their parents/guardians periodically, and require additional confirmation dates/signatures as revisions and additions are made.