

BOY SCOUT TROOP 16 HELPFUL GUIDELINES FOR THE SCOUTMASTER, ADULT STAFF & TROOP COMMITTEE

The Boy Scouts of America is a values-based youth development organization that helps young people 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.

As they grow and develop, children and youth need to learn appropriate behavior, and benefit from the guidance and instruction provided by adults. The examples which are set by positive adult role models is a powerful tool for shaping behavior, and is a tool that is used in scouting.

Misbehavior by a single youth member of a scouting unit may constitute a threat to the safety of the individual who misbehaves as well as to the safety of the individual who misbehaves as well as to the safety of other unit members. Such misbehavior constitutes an unreasonable burden on a scout unit and cannot be ignored.

The following suggestions are offered by the Ad Hoc Code of Conduct Committee of Troop 16 as helpful guidelines for adult staff members of the troop. They stand not as hard and fast rules, but as helpful guidelines for adults who need to make disciplinary decisions regarding youth scout behavior.

The following excerpts are taken from the TROOP 16 BOY SCOUT CODE OF CONDUCT:

Unless otherwise noted, all of the following disciplinary actions may be taken by an adult chaperone, an adult staff member, or acting scoutmaster. Consequences of violations should be applied consistently.

1. A scout will set a good example by keeping himself clean and neatly dressed, and caring for his uniform.

The scout will receive positive reminders and lose points according to the Troop 16 Inspection Code. At Long Lake, scouts may be asked to return to their tents in order to dress properly for dinner or assembly.

2. A scout is responsible for taking home any notes or permission slips and giving them to his parent/guardian. A scout is responsible for handing in any money, permission slips or notes from his parent/guardian to the scout leaders in a timely fashion.

The scout will receive reasonable verbal and email reminders, and will miss an event if the deadline is not met. The parent/guardian is asked to request information from the scout, and to read and share information with the scout.

3. A scout will take care of all troop or patrol gear issued to him or his patrol and of any personal property belonging to him or to others. A scout will put his name on all of his personal gear. A scout will be responsible for any negligent damage that he may cause. Theft or vandalism will not be tolerated.

The scout will receive positive reminders about gear. A scout who engages in "keep-away" games with another scout's personal gear will be warned. A scout's parent/guardian will be informed if damage to troop or another scout's personal gear occurs. Serious theft or vandalism will require payment for damaged items, apologies, communication with the Troop Committee and possible suspension from future scout events.

4. A scout will bring appropriate and approved gear with him to scout meetings and events. The following items are inappropriate or banned:
 - a. Any printed or recorded material that leaders consider rated “R”
 - b. Knives other than pocket knives as described in the Boy Scout Handbook (no switchblades, gravity knives, sheath knives, butterfly knives, etc.)
 - c. Fireworks or explosives of any kind
 - d. Toy weapons such as super soakers, air soft guns, darts/dart guns, etc.
 - e. Electronic devices such as walkie-talkies, cell phones, radios, music devices, games, etc.

Prohibited gear will be confiscated and returned to the offending scout’s parent/guardian at the end of the event. Serious or repeated offenses will result in the acting scoutmaster communicating with the Troop Committee and may result in suspension from future scout events.

5. Scouts are not to use cell phones during meetings or other scouting events. This includes telephone, texting, camera, music, internet, games, etc. A working cell phone will be available at every scouting event; contact information should be available to parents prior to the event. When necessary, scouts can approach an adult leader to use the available cell phone during meetings or other scouting events.

Cell phone use during Scout meeting or Scouting events will be followed by confiscation of phone by scoutmaster or assistant scoutmaster to be returned to the scout’s parent at the end of the meeting or scouting event. If parent not present at the end of the meeting or scouting event, phone will be returned to the scout and scoutmaster will make email/phone contact with parent.

6. A scout will abide by the law and will not purchase, possess or consume tobacco products, alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs.

A scout in possession of any of these substances will be immediately removed by the acting scoutmaster from the scout event. The Troop Committee will be informed by the acting scoutmaster. A meeting with the parent/guardian will follow. Authorities will be notified by the Troop Committee Chair if warranted.

7. A scout will use clean and kind language. Profanity, put-downs and verbal taunting will not be tolerated.

A scout will receive warnings and an apology may be called for. The parent/guardian will be informed by the acting scoutmaster if behavior persists or is serious. Incidents of verbal taunting may result in a scout being removed from an event, and may be considered harassment. The acting scoutmaster will report incidents of verbal harassment to the Troop Committee.

8. A scout will behave in a safe manner. Unsafe behaviors will not be tolerated and include: improper use of knives or axes, improper use of sharp sticks, rope or other equipment, playing with fire.

A scout will receive positive instructions or warnings as needed. Adult staff may cut corners off of Tot ‘n Chip or Fireman’s Chit cards as warnings. Dangerous behavior will be stopped immediately (by any chaperone or adult staff member) and reported to the acting scoutmaster. Dangerous behavior or repeatedly ignored warnings may result in the offending scout’s removal from the event by the acting scoutmaster, communication with the Troop Committee, and a meeting with the parent/guardian.

9. A scout will use the buddy system during troop outings. Scouts will use the “rule of three” when meeting with a leader or adult.

A scout will receive positive reminders. A scout who consistently violates the buddy system rule may be given a time-out by an adult staff member.

10. A scout will behave in a friendly manner. Behavior that sets a bad example or gives the appearance of causing physical harm will not be tolerated. Behavior with the intent to cause physical harm will not be tolerated. Examples of prohibited behavior include, but are not limited to:
- Physically violent behavior such as choking, punching, or any deliberate attempt to injure another person.
 - Throwing objects with the intent to harm another person
 - “Play-fighting” which gives the appearance of fighting or is determined that it could lead to fighting

In addition, a scout is expected to “keep his hands and feet to himself,” during meetings, meals, and other times that are not designated as “game time” when scouts may physically interact.

1) A scout who engages in poking, soft-hitting or play-fighting will receive reminders to keep hands and feet to himself. Ignoring repeated reminders may result in a “time out” given by an adult staff member and acting scoutmaster or adult staff member conversation with parent/guardian.

2) A scout who is observed in engaging in any physically violent behavior with intent to harm will be stopped in that behavior by any chaperone, adult staff member or acting scoutmaster. The acting scoutmaster will remove the scout from the event, will inform the Troop Committee, and a meeting with the parent/guardian will follow. Suspension from future events may result.

3) A scout who is observed in engaging in any physically violent behavior with undetermined intent will be stopped in that behavior by any chaperone, adult staff member or acting scoutmaster. The scout will immediately be required to meet with the acting scoutmaster or adult staff to discuss the situation. Appropriate discipline will be determined by the acting scoutmaster and may include: time-out, probationary period, removal from the event. The acting scoutmaster will inform the Troop Committee. A meeting with the parent/guardian will follow.

11. A scout will respect authority, and will comply with instructions given by the acting scoutmaster, adult staff, adult chaperones and youth leaders unless the scout deems the instructions to endanger himself or another scout. In that case, the scout will seek help from another adult staff member. A scout will immediately report any dangerous situation to the nearest adult chaperone or staff member.

A scout who disrespects authority in a casual manner will receive reminders. A scout who continually disrespects authority in a casual manner may receive a time-out from an adult staff member and/or adult staff member or acting scoutmaster conversation with the parent/guardian. A scout who disrespects authority in a vulgar, angry or violent manner will meet with the acting scoutmaster, who will determine appropriate discipline. Options include: Meeting with the parent/guardian, time-out, removal from the event, informing the Troop Committee...

12. A scout who has a problem with another scout will report the problem to his patrol leader and patrol advisor, who will seek advice from an adult staff member if the problem is in violation of the Code of Conduct or if a solution cannot be found. A scout who has a problem with an adult chaperone or adult staff member will report the problem to two other adult staff members.

A scout will receive positive encouragement and proper information regarding conflict resolution. Adult chaperones, adult staff members and acting scoutmasters will receive proper information about “chain-of-command” and the role of the Troop Committee. Parents will receive proper information regarding the role of the Troop Committee in conflict resolution.