



Troop 168

Conduct and Discipline Policy



Rev. A-02
2/5/2025

Introduction and Guiding Principles

This document provides a comprehensive overview of Troop 168's conduct and discipline policy, highlighting key principles, procedures, and expectations for both Scouts and adult leaders. The policy aims to create a safe, respectful, and positive environment consistent with the ideals of Scouting.

- **BSA Alignment:** Troop 168 adheres to the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) rules and policies, particularly those outlined in the "Guide to Safe Scouting." The troop-specific policy provides additional clarity and detail at the troop level. Troop 168 follows BSA rules and policies in the Guide to Safe Scouting, available online at:
<http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS/toc.aspx>.
- **Emphasis on Good Behavior:** The policy stresses that good behavior is "essential to any program" and is a crucial element of showing Scout Spirit, as well as a requirement for advancement.
- **Hierarchical Authority Structure:** The troop utilizes a clear authority structure to guide its activities:
 - Troop Committee
 - Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster
 - Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)
 - Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)
 - Patrol Leader (PL)
 - Assistant Patrol Leader (APL)

Note: Adult leaders always have final authority, but the purpose is to "augment and uphold" the Scouts' responsibilities, not to remove authority from the Scouts.

- **Safety First:** Scouts are prohibited from any activity considered dangerous, including "hazing, harassing, abuse of fire or flammable materials, or abuse of sharp instruments."




Adult Leader Conduct

- **Role Models:** Adult leaders are expected to exemplify the ideals of Scouting.
- **Standards:** Adherence to the Scout Oath and Law in personal habits, language, hygiene, and interaction with Scouts is required.
- **Accountability:** The Committee Chair is responsible for the conduct of adult leaders.

Expected Conduct and Behavior

- **General Behavior Standard:** If behavior isn't allowed at school or church, it's not acceptable in Troop 168.
- **The Scout Sign:** When the Scout sign is displayed, all activities must immediately cease, and the sign must be displayed by everyone, including adults.
- **Uniforms:**
 - Class A (Field) Uniform is mandatory for all troop events and ceremonies.
 - Class B shirts are allowed for camping and outdoor activities.
 - Uniforms must be clean, neat, tucked in, buttoned, and with appropriate insignia.
 - Uniforms must be worn to reflect positively on the individual, the troop, the charter organization, and the BSA.
- **Patrol System:** Scouts are to remain with their patrols unless given permission by their Patrol Leader. Patrol leaders must be aware of the whereabouts of all their Scouts.
- **Attendance:** Scouts are expected to attend all weekly meetings. In the case of absence, Scout must inform PL/SPL two days in advance. A written notice is required for absences two consecutive weeks or more.
- **Tardiness:** Scouts are expected to arrive at the meeting location 10-15 minutes before flag ceremony. Scouts arriving after flag ceremony has started will be asked to stand aside. If scouts make it a habit to arrive tardy, a parent-leader conference will be held to address the issue.
- **Leaving the Campsite:** Scouts may not leave the campsite without permission of their Patrol Leader, who must get permission from the Senior Patrol Leader to leave the area.
- **Zero Tolerance for Disruptive Behavior:** Disciplinary problems will not be tolerated during campouts and activities. Scouts who cannot behave appropriately will be sent home.
- **Requirement:** Scouts must adhere to the BSA's Buddy System in specified situations, including:
 - Water activities
 - Venturing beyond visual range of the campsite
 - Interacting with large groups of people unfamiliar to the troop

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- Anytime the Scoutmaster deems it necessary
 - **Visitors:** Visitors are welcomed with prior approval from the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters (one week in advance).

Specific Prohibitions (Do's and Don'ts)

- **Fireworks:** Use or possession of fireworks is prohibited (unless handled by a certified expert).
- **Firearms:** Firearms are not permitted unless specifically required for a troop activity with prior approval.
- **Knives:** Sheath knives are prohibited. Lock-blade and pocket knives are permitted if the blade does not exceed three inches, and the Scout has their Totin' Chip card.
- **Sexually Explicit Materials:** Possession of sexually explicit materials is prohibited, and if found, they will be confiscated and returned to parents.
- **Electronic Devices:** Electronic devices are prohibited during troop activities (exceptions may be made for long trips with adult leader possession during the event).

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.

Substance Use, Fighting, and Language


- **Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco:** A zero-tolerance policy exists for the use, possession, and/or distribution of tobacco or controlled substances. Violation will result in immediate disciplinary action and potential suspension.

Required medications must be presented to the activity coordinator, along with a medication form.

- **Fighting:** Fighting is prohibited and will result in immediate disciplinary action and the Scout being sent home.
- **Language and Respect:** Foul language, abusive gestures, and disrespectful behavior are not allowed. Scouts are to be reverent, courteous, and clean.

Discipline Procedures

- **Goal:** To maintain safety, prevent property damage, and avoid disrupting other organizations' activities.
- **Obedience:** The policy defines "obedience" as adhering to the Scout Oath and Law, and showing respect for all leaders, members, and guests.
- **No Physical Punishment:** Under "NO circumstances" will adult or Scout leaders administer physical punishment for any reason. Hazing is also strictly prohibited, with an expectation of intervention from observers.

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- **Progressive Discipline:** The discipline process is hierarchical and escalates based on repeated offenses:
 1. **Patrol Leader (PL) Action:** Initial handling of issues within patrols, with the authority to ask a Scout to leave a patrol meeting and report to the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL).
 2. **Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) Action:** If a PL cannot resolve an issue, the SPL can ask a Scout to leave the meeting and report to the Scoutmaster.
 3. **Scoutmaster Action:** The Scoutmaster is the ultimate authority on discipline.
 - **First Instance:** Conference with the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster, along with another adult leader.
 - **Second Instance:** Conference with the Scoutmaster, a phone call to parents explaining the problem, and a written explanation provided to parents and the Troop Committee Chair. Parents may be asked to help supervise, and a board review may be assigned.
 - **Third Instance:** Conference with the Scoutmaster, Committee Chair, and parents. The Scout may be suspended from troop activities, based on the Scoutmaster's recommendation.
 - **Fourth Instance:** The issue is referred to the full Troop Committee.
 - **Escalation:** The Troop Committee may bypass lower levels of discipline if they deem the situation warrants it.
 - **Extreme Cases:**
 - Dismissal from the troop is a possibility, requiring approval from the Troop Committee.
 - Parents will be called to pick up disruptive Scouts during events.
 - **Reporting Inappropriate Discipline:** Scouts can seek help:
 - From the Senior Patrol Leader if the discipline was from another Scout.
 - From the Scoutmaster if the discipline was from the Senior Patrol Leader.
 - From the Troop Committee Chair if the discipline was from the Scoutmaster.



Acknowledgement

Both parents/guardians and the Scout must sign and return the policy to the Troop Committee Chair as a condition of registration and participation.

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: _____