



## Troop 250 Code of Conduct

Troop 250 has a large number of active Scouts who are good, solid boys of character, and we intend to maintain the high standards that we ascribe to under the Scout Oath and Scout Law. It is important that Scouts show respect to adult and youth leaders, as well as each other. Although we have very few problems and do not anticipate any, we feel that certain guidelines should be written and accepted to avoid any potential for misunderstandings.

Good behavior is essential to any youth program and is a primary element of showing **Scout Spirit**, which is a requirement for advancement.

These rules apply when a Scout is under our responsibility – that is, any time that he is with the Troop at weekly meetings, camping trips, or other Troop or BSA sponsored activities. **The rules have been developed in accordance with the Guide to Safe Scouting**, available online here: <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsourc/HealthandSafety/GSS/toc.aspx>

The levels of authority in a Boy Scout Troop are as follows:

1. Troop Committee
2. Scoutmaster / Assistant Scoutmaster (SM / ASM)
3. Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)
4. Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)
5. Patrol Leader (PL)
6. Assistant Patrol Leader (APL)

In each instance of an infraction, the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or adult present will have the final authority. The purpose of a clear “chain of command” is to support and uphold the Youth Leadership’s authority as they are responsible for running the troop. Scouts should not misconstrue the Youth Leadership role as bossing around or making Scouts do more than their fair share, and instead should recognize this leadership structure and be willing to participate and assist others as required.

### General Behavior and Requirements

Scouts will conduct themselves properly during all Troop 250 and Scouting activities. If a behavior is not allowed at home, school, or church, then it is not acceptable in Troop 250.

When wearing the Scout Field Uniform (Class A) the Scout shall wear their uniforms in a manner that will reflect credit upon themselves, the Troop, the BSA, and the Charter Organization (Grace Presbyterian). This means neat, proper insignia on uniform, shirt tucked in, and no non-BSA approved articles of clothing such as gym shorts or flip flops. Unless otherwise directed, a Scout is to wear Class A’s at all events, including while being transported to and from Troop events.

It is imperative that a Patrol Leader knows the whereabouts of his Scouts during patrol and Troop activities. During Troop meetings a Scout will be with his patrol during activities unless given permission by their Patrol Leader to meet with the Scoutmaster, go to the restroom, or is pulled from the meeting for his Board of Review. During camp outs, no Scout will leave the campsite area without the permission of the next Scout or Scouter in the “chain of command”.

Scouts will follow the BSA’s **Buddy System** wherever appropriate or designated by the adult or youth leader in charge. Examples of activities that include the Buddy System are going to the restroom, water activities, instance where Scouts may be interacting with groups of people not part of the Troop membership, or whenever a Scout goes beyond the visual range of a campsite.

In addition to the above guidelines for behavior, the following will not be tolerated:

- Possession or use of any illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages
- Possession or use of firearms, ammunition, or fireworks
- Smoking or any tobacco use - this includes electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) or personal vaporizer (PV)
- Reckless/dangerous behavior that could cause harm to yourself or other Scouts
- Profanity or vulgar / inappropriate discussions
- Sexually explicit material in ANY media format shall not be brought to Scout activities
- Stealing or damaging property that does not belong to you
- Any form of hazing or bullying
- Verbal or physical harassment or malicious behavior directed toward another Scout
- Physical abuse such as punching, kicking, or slapping another Scout

Participating in the above or in any activity that could be considered dangerous to themselves or their fellow Scouts will result in disciplinary action that could include suspension or expulsion from the Troop. Such suspension or expulsion, as well as the reinstatement of a suspended Scout, will be determined by the Scoutmaster with the concurrence of the Troop Committee.

**Electronics Policy:** NO PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE ALLOWED TO BE BROUGHT TO ANY TROOP 250 EVENTS. This includes but is not limited to iPods, Mp3 players, electronic games, cell phones, TV's, and any hand-held radio. Exceptions are the use of devices by the adult leaders for emergency communications purposes.

Portable electronic devices are contrary to the scouting philosophy of learning to live in and appreciate the outdoors. A Scout that is using an electronic device instead of doing scouting related tasks loses out on the scouting experience. A Scout using electronic devices during classes, activities, and meetings, is a distraction. Such a distraction to the adult leaders can also result in a hazardous lack of attention to the surroundings, resulting in injury to a Scout. This is the primary reason for the no electronic policy.

Any infraction of this policy will be handled as follows: upon the discovery of an electronic device, the Scoutmaster or other adult leader will confiscate the item and return it at the end of the event.

### Discipline

**General** - the approach to discipline in Scouting is meant to be simple and the program is a welcome place for boys who follow the ideals of Scouting. Understanding and abiding by the Troop 250 Code of Conduct is a requirement for membership in the Troop in order to maintain a safe environment and avoid disrupting Troop and other organization's activities.

**A Scout is Obedient** – to be obedient in Scouting is to follow the Scout Law and Oath and to respect the youth and adult leadership of the Troop. 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.

**Enforcement** – Under **NO** circumstances will leaders (youth or adult) administer physical punishment or use other methods such as demerits, push-ups, or other punishments that can be construed as negative reinforcement, for any reason. Positive reinforcement by discussion the Scout Oath and Law and outlining a plan for improvement should always be the first action taken. The following guidelines are provided for disciplinary actions:

If a Scout is being disruptive or is otherwise being disrespectful to Scouts or adults:

1. The Patrol Leader will attempt to handle within the Patrol. The Scout will be asked to leave the meeting or area of the troop for an immediate conference with his patrol leader to go over why his behavior is unacceptable and to discuss what portion of the Scout Law and/or Troop Code of Conduct applies. An adult leader is notified of the conversation.
2. Upon a second infraction or if the patrol leader is unable to handle, the Scout is referred to the Senior Patrol Leader for a conference of the same nature. An adult leader is notified of the conversation.
3. Upon a third infraction or if the SPL is unable to handle, the Scout is referred to the Scoutmaster for a Scoutmaster's Conference on the Scout's behavior, a discussion about how to improve, and a review of the Scout Oath/Law and Troop Code of Conduct. If during a camp out or other troop activity away from home, this conference will occur with another adult leader present. If this occurs at a troop event here at home, the Scoutmaster will request that a parent or guardian attend the conference. In either case the parents will be notified. This will allow parents to take any disciplinary action at home that they deem acceptable.

This process can be used for most disciplinary issues and is intended to state the guidelines beforehand so that Scouts and adults are aware of the expectations. The overarching purpose is to a) keep the disciplinary action within the Youth Leadership structure where possible and b) to seek to correct and improve the behavior of the Scout so that they become cheerful stewards of Scout Spirit and all that entails.

If the problem is elevated to an Adult Leader or Scoutmaster to handle, the parents/guardians will be immediately brought into the conversation. The Troop Committee may opt to take immediate or further action based on the recommendation of any adult leader or the SPL, especially if the Scout committed a grave infraction (such as fighting) or is a repeat offender with no improvement. Per the Code of Conduct the Scout may be suspended for a period of time or asked to leave the Troop permanently. The Committee has to approve such an action.

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.

Agreement: All Scouts and Adult Leaders are representatives of their community, family and local Scouting Council. Therefore, all Scouts and parents are asked to sign this Code of Conduct as a condition for membership and participation, with the further understanding, that serious misconduct or infraction of the above rules may result in expulsion from any activity or meeting. We want each Scout to be responsible for their behavior, and only when necessary will the procedure be invoked to send a Scout home. By signing this document, you agree to abide by the conditions listed above and to live by the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

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Scout Signature

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Parent Signature

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Date