



TROOP 51 CODE OF CONDUCT

**SCOUTING IS A GAME
WITH A PURPOSE**

FUN IS THE GAME

VALUES ARE THE PURPOSE

**LEARNING IS THE
PROCESS**

Approved by Troop 51 Committee
January 23, 2011

Troop 51 Code of Conduct

Section 1:

Troop 51 strives to teach Scouts to live by the principles exemplified in the Scout Oath and Law. Scouting should be fun and challenging while providing a safe and supportive environment in which Scouts can learn and grow without unnecessary roughness, physical or verbal intimidation, foul or offensive language or disrespectful behavior. Physical discipline is not permitted by youths or adults under any circumstances. Any youth or adult leader involved in such discipline shall be immediately suspended until the issue is brought to the attention of the Troop Committee. For serious offenses, the troop may use probation, suspension, and expulsion.

Section 2:

Examples of unacceptable behavior include:

1. Failure to follow reasonable directives from a Scouter (adult leader) or junior leader
2. Unnecessary or inappropriate physical roughness
3. Threatening, hazing, or harassing another person by word or action
4. Stealing from another Scout;
5. Foul language, as well as negative or derogatory banter
6. Offensive behavior or language regarding race, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation
7. Behavior that displays disrespect for other persons, personal property or the environment
8. Smoking
9. Possession or use of fireworks
10. Unauthorized use or possession of firearms or other weapons
11. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances (except medication of which the activity medical officer is aware).
12. Use or possession of axes, hatchets or sheath knives or any knife except a folding pocket knife (maximum blade length 3") without permission of the Scoutmaster or other Scouter.
13. Illegal conduct, in or out of Scouting;
14. Misbehavior or refusal to abide by troop policies which is seriously detrimental to the welfare of the troop;
15. Willful disregard of the Scout Law or Scout Promise, especially by a scout or an adult in a position of trust.

Section 3:

When discipline problems occur that need more than a friendly reminder from a Scout's peers or supervising adults, the following steps are taken:

1. A Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, or Troop Guide

- formally asks the Scout to stop the inappropriate behavior. The youth leader makes sure the Scout understands the nature of the offense, discusses appropriate behaviors, and, with the Scout, seeks ways to correct damage that resulted from the Scouts action.
2. A Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or other designated adult asks the Scout to stop the inappropriate behavior. The adult makes sure the Scout understands the nature of the offense, discusses appropriate behaviors, and, with the Scout, seeks ways to correct damage that resulted from the Scouts action.
 3. If the problem persists, or is of a serious nature where additional intervention is needed, the Scout may be required to appear before a Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee investigates the incident(s), talking to all involved parties and witnesses. The Disciplinary Committee will recommend the appropriate corrective actions.
 4. The Disciplinary Committee will meet with the Scout and his parents to discuss their investigation and the proposed corrective actions. This session is intended to be a dialogue with all parties and to make sure all questions and concerns are addressed.
 5. The Disciplinary Committee will inform the Scout and his family in writing of any corrective action that is imposed, and the actions that the Scout is expected to take. When appropriate, dates for completion of an action will be given. The Scout, at least 1 parent and the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee will sign and date this document. A date for a follow-up meeting will be set at this time.
 6. At the completion of all required actions, the Disciplinary Committee will meet again with the Scout and his family to verify that all corrective actions are complete, that the Scout has learned the desired lessons and has an acceptable attitude, to close the incident and welcome the Scout back to full activities and good standing. The Scout, his parent and the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee will sign and date the corrective action document to verify that all conditions have been met.
 7. The Scoutmaster will retain a permanent file of the event. This file may be referenced to determine appropriate actions for similar offenses or to determine the level of response needed for repeat or multiple offenses. It will not be made public to anyone not involved in the Discipline Committee or used for any other purposes. Once closed, the information may not be used to determine whether a Scout may advance in rank or hold a leadership position.
 8. A repeat offense is defined as a Scout committing the same offense and requiring action by a Scout leader or Disciplinary Committee more than once. Multiple offenses are defined as a Scout being involved in more than one violation of the Code of Conduct.

Section 4:

The Disciplinary Committee will consist of the Troop Committee Chairperson, the Scoutmaster, the Chaplain and up to 2 other registered adult leaders. An adult whose son is appearing before the Disciplinary Committee may not be a part of the committee. The Disciplinary Committee is appointed when the need arises, and is not a standing committee. Discussions and meetings of the committee members among themselves and with the Scout and his family are expected to remain confidential. The Troop Committee Chairperson will be the Chair of the Disciplinary Committee unless he is not available or has reasons for declining to do so. In that case, Disciplinary Committee

members determine who will act as the Chairman. If the Troop Committee Chairman or Scoutmaster are not available when an incident requiring intervention occurs, the senior most adult leader present should investigate and report findings to the Troop Committee Chairperson or Scoutmaster as soon as possible.

Investigations and actions by the Disciplinary Committee are expected to be prompt, and committee decisions announced within 2 weeks of the incident.

Fortunately, serious problems rarely arise due to the good character of our Scouts. When there are problems, cooperation among Scouts, Scoutmasters and parents often turn problems into opportunities for growth and character development.

Section 5:

Discipline needs to be positive rather than negative whenever possible, and it must be applied using common sense and fairness. Where it is appropriate, the best disciplinary approach is to warn the scout and review the elements of the Scout Law that applies to the situation. The Disciplinary Committee may impose actions such as apologies, essays, loss of leadership positions or community service, as they deem appropriate. Where that fails or seems insufficient, the remedial actions may include:

Probation - a period of evaluation both by the troop and by the Scout under probation to determine fitness or desire to remain in the troop. A Scout under probation may not normally hold any troop leadership position, is generally barred from certain "special" troop activities, and may be required to perform other tasks at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee.

Suspension - the temporary loss of all membership privileges in the troop, typically for 3 or 6 months. A Scout is not eligible for any advancement during the suspension period. A suspended Scout may be readmitted at the conclusion of the suspension period only after he has met the conditions specified by the Disciplinary Committee at the beginning of his suspension.

Expulsion - the permanent loss of all membership privileges in the troop. The Disciplinary Committee must have the approval of the Troop Committee before they may permanently expel any member.

Section 6:

Due to their serious nature and negative impact on Scouts and the Scouting program, the following acts require action by the Disciplinary Committee when they occur. Probation is the minimum penalty that may be imposed.

- No Scout or Scouter may possess or consume alcoholic beverages at any time during any Scouting activity. Violators will be dismissed from the activity and suspended from the troop until they appear at a Disciplinary Committee meeting

- (with a parent, if a Scout). The committee will determine any further actions, including the possibility of permanent expulsion from the troop.
- Use of tobacco products is not consistent with the Scout Law and Promise. No Scout may possess or use tobacco products at any time on any Scouting activity, regardless of parental consent. Scouters who smoke/chew must do so completely away from the Scouts. Violators will be dismissed from the activity and suspended from the troop until they appear at a Disciplinary Committee meeting (with a parent, if a Scout). The committee will determine any further actions, including the possibility of permanent expulsion from the troop.
 - Troop 51 bans the possession or use of illegal drugs (marijuana, etc), other abusable substances (glue, prescription drugs, etc, except when used for their intended purpose), and drug paraphernalia (roach clips, pipes, etc). Prescription medication will be managed by the Scouter in charge of the medicine for the activity. Adult violators (age 18 and up) will be turned over to the police. Police involvement for Scout violators will be at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee based on individual circumstances. All violators will be dismissed from the activity and suspended from the troop until they appear at a Disciplinary Committee meeting (with a parent, if a Scout). The committee will determine any further actions, including the possibility of permanent expulsion from the troop.

If a Scout is suspended from an activity, his parents will be contacted to come and pick him up, regardless of location. His actions until he is picked up will be restricted as deemed appropriate by the leader in charge of the event. If an adult is suspended from an activity, he/she will be asked to leave immediately. To the extent possible, other transportation arrangements will be made for any individuals who were traveling in the same vehicle with the adult.

Section 7:

The troop discourages but does not ban, the consumption of caffeine-containing beverages (coffee, tea, caffeinated pop) by Scouts. If necessary, Scouters may limit consumption by Scouts who drink excessive amounts, or have medications that might cause an unfavorable interaction.

Section 8:

Scouting is based on trust, and we prefer to trust our Scouts. Unfortunately, a very few dishonest boys have abused this trust. It is sad that the honest majority must pay the price for the unethical few. In view of our obligation to protect our Scouts from harmful influences, and recognizing the difficulty of learning about such influences in a timely manner, we must reluctantly reserve the right to ask a Scout to show the contents of his pockets, pack, or tent, or to call in the police to assist. We especially want those few who may be goaded by the temptations of dishonor to know that they may be checked at any time. At the same time, we want to maintain an environment based on trust where we are not tempted to search anyone. Only the Scoutmaster, or another adult leader in charge, is empowered to conduct a search of a Scout, his pack, or his tent, upon reasonable suspicion.

A minimum of two adults and the Scout must be present during any search. The adult leader in charge has the responsibility to determine if police involvement is required.

Section 9:

All issues brought before the disciplinary committee are to be considered CONFIDENTIAL, and are not to be discussed outside the disciplinary committee. Once a Scout has completed any corrective action imposed by the committee, the issue is considered CLOSED, and is not to be discussed or considered in any future actions related to the Scout, unless the Scout repeats the same offense.



I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Troop 51 by-laws, dated January 23, 2011.

I agree that as a member of Troop 51 I will abide by these by-laws.

Scout name (printed) Scout's signature Date

I agree that I will encourage and expect my son to abide by the by-laws of Troop 51.

Parent name (printed) Parent's signature Date