

Troop 119



Lexington,



Boy Scout Troop 119

Hancock United Church of Christ – Lexington, Massachusetts

Troop 119 Scout Law Policy

Introduction

It is the policy of Troop 119 to provide a safe environment in which all members of the Troop can develop and advance within the Scouting program. Any behavior by a Scout or an Adult, that threatens the safety or well being of another Scout, is disrespectful to youth or adult leaders, or that brings dishonor to the Troop, Charter Organization, or the Scouting Program constitutes a serious behavior issue, which will be dealt with immediately.

This Scout Law Policy and the Troop Code of Conduct, included here-in by reference, describe appropriate and inappropriate behavior, processes for implementing the policy and the possible consequences of inappropriate behavior. All Scouts are required to provide the troop with a Policy signed by the Scout and his parent(s) or guardian(s).

Behavior

1. All Scouts and Adults are expected to live, to the best of their ability, by The Scout Oath and Law, which says that a Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent.
2. The Troop Code of Conduct is the commitment we each make to each other to be respectful and to do our best to support the principles and values of Scouting.
3. Properly wearing the Scout uniform is a core value and compliance with the troop uniform policy is required of all Scouts. Class A is the appropriate attire for all troop meetings, Courts of Honor, Scoutmaster Conferences, Boards of Review, and other formal events. The PLC will determine appropriate attire for other events and activities but will generally require a Class B uniform.
4. Conduct that will not be tolerated includes: fighting; hazing; threatening; verbal abuse of other Scouts or Scout leaders; harassment of other Scouts or Scout leaders; habitual use of foul language; use of tobacco in any form; use of drugs; consumption of alcohol; inappropriate use of knives, axes, saws or other sharp objects; careless use of flammable products and fire; abuse of troop property; abuse of the personal equipment and property of others; and any other conduct in which the Scout engages which the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters believe threatens the well-being of the Scout or others, troop property or the property of others, or interferes with the purposes of Scouting.
5. Disruptive behavior in meetings and at events or activities is disrespectful to others and is not supportive of the Troop and Patrol activities and the Scouting program and will not be tolerated.

6. The attempt of any Scout to frighten, coerce, or force another Scout into taking or being subjected to any action(s) that would otherwise be against his will is strictly prohibited.
7. Adults should be a positive role model for scouts, provide instruction in a constructive and supportive manner, and create an environment that encourages learning, tolerates failure and strives to promote the principle of a boy-led troop. Adults should seek to learn, through formal training and hands-on experience, the skills necessary to provide instruction and guidance to Scouts.
8. Adults must be trained and practice the principles of the Boy Scouts of America Youth Protection Program.
9. Corporal punishment of any kind is not tolerated in Scouting.

Responsibilities and Consequences

1. The Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) is the elected body of a boy-led troop and may deal with a Scout's or troop conduct problems assigned to it by an adult leader or take on issues on their own with permission and guidance from the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster. The PLC may meet anywhere, any time. The PLC must consider all sides of a problem, discuss the issue, and recommend to the Scoutmaster (or adult leader in charge of the event if immediate action is required) what action should be taken. The Scoutmaster will review the decision of the PLC, and, at his or her discretion, will enforce either that decision or suggest a modified version of the decision.
2. The ***PLC and the Scoutmaster*** may consider one of several action steps or consequences:
 - a. A verbal warning
 - b. A one-on-one or group meeting with the Scout to review appropriate behavior
 - c. Loss of privileges to attend or participate in a Troop activity or event for more serious or repeat offenses.
 - d. Removal of a Scout from his leadership position
 - e. Assignment of a work or service project that provides a tangible benefit for the Troop and is consistent with the infraction. The project must be completed immediately and before a scout can advance to the next rank.
 - f. Referral to the Troop Committee for further action.
3. The ***Scoutmaster or an Adult***, in consultation with another adult leader, will deal with minor problems in the manner that they determine to be in the best interest of the Scout and the Troop, which shall be appropriate for the situation and consistent with Scout policy. More serious situations shall be dealt with in the following manner:
 - a. When the behavior of a Scout could threaten the safety of another individual, or is felt to be sufficiently serious, any adult leadership should take immediate action using their best judgment
 - b. In the case of a serious problem, such as a safety issue or insubordination to a leader, the youth or adult leader must first stabilize the situation and inform the Scout that he is "on report". The leader should then "step back" and immediately involve another adult, preferably the Scoutmaster as to the handling of the situation.

- c. As a consequence of a serious infraction on any activity or event the Scoutmaster or Adults may decide to send a Scout home in which case the parents should come as quickly as possible and any expenses resulting from the Scout being sent home will be borne solely by the parents of the Scout.
 - d. The Troop Committee will be advised of any instance of serious misconduct, as will the parents of the affected Scout.
4. The **Troop Committee** has the primary responsibility for the safe, effective and efficient operations of Troop 119 and, therefore, has the final authority to deal with all violations of the Troop 119 Code of Conduct and Scout Law Policy. Generally the Committee, the Scoutmaster and other adult leaders will operate on a “three strikes” approach. The first strike is a warning. The second strike is a serious warning where the Committee may choose to contact the Scout’s parents. The third strike means “you’re out” and is only exercised as a last resort after all attempts to reach a satisfactory resolution have been exhausted.
 5. The Troop Committee should be immediately notified of any reports of inappropriate behavior by adults associated with the Troop and will have primary responsibility for investigating the circumstances and taking appropriate action.
 6. In order to assure the safety of all Scouts and the well being of the troop the Troop Committee reserves the right to do any or all of the following:
 - a. Provide guidance to the PLC and Scoutmaster with regard to handling the specific situation which may include any of the remedies mentioned earlier
 - b. Revoking a Scout’s privilege to participate in meetings and activities
 - c. Delaying advancement for not living up to the spirit of the Scout Oath and Law
 - d. Invite the parents of the Scout and the Scout to meet with representatives of the Committee and the Scoutmaster to discuss the situation and to attempt to reach a satisfactory conclusion
 - e. Suspend a Scout from the Troop for a defined period of time
 - f. Terminate membership in the Troop but only after the parents of the Scout and the Scout have been invited to attend a Committee meeting to discuss the issue of termination. If parents choose not to attend the termination meeting, the Scout’s participation in the troop will be immediately terminated. It is the goal of the Troop that termination from the Troop is a “last resort” which is reserved for severe problems, and undertaken only to assure the safety of the Scout membership and the well-being of the Troop

Read and Understood:

Scout: _____ Parent: _____

Date: _____

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Troop Code of Conduct

As a member of Troop 119, I understand that my right to join in the fun of Scouting requires responsibility on my part to always behave according to the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Outdoor Code, the Troop 119 Scout Law Policy and the Code of Conduct described below.

The Code of Conduct for Troop 119 is as follows:

- ❖ I will not be disruptive, will pay attention and show respect to both the elected youth leaders and adult Troop Leaders.
- ❖ I will do my best to be on time and in the proper uniform for all meetings and scheduled Scouting events.
- ❖ I will participate in and support the activities of my patrol and Troop to the best of my abilities.
- ❖ I will not haze, threaten, injure or verbally abuse another person.
- ❖ I will not abuse things that belong to another person, including Troop equipment.
- ❖ I will not borrow another person's equipment or belongings without permission.
- ❖ I will not leave a meeting, event or activity without an adult's permission and then only with a buddy.
- ❖ I will not use profanity, drugs, alcohol, or tobacco while at any Scouting function.
- ❖ I will use matches and stick lighters only when appropriate and safe and only if I have my "Fireman's Chit" (Cigarette lighters are not appropriate.)
- ❖ I will follow "Totin Chip" rules and regulations when using knives, axes, and saws.
- ❖ I will not take dangerous or unauthorized items (fireworks, firearms, bows/arrows, sling shots, laser pens, etc.) to Scouting functions.
- ❖ I will not take electronic devices to Scouting functions unless authorized by the Scoutmasters.
- ❖ I will remember that a Scout is reverent and do my best to demonstrate reverence by, for example, saying grace before all meals and attending troop faith services.
- ❖ I will perform the duties of my office or assigned responsibility to the best of my ability.
- ❖ I will not ask another Scout to perform a task I am not willing to do myself.
- ❖ I will attempt, by word and deed, to bring honor upon my patrol, my Troop, and myself.

Consequences of Improper Behavior

The Scouts of Troop 119 elect the Senior Patrol Leaders and the Patrol Leaders to run the Troop through the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC). The PLC will initially address many violations of the Code of Conduct. Consequences could include a verbal warning, suspension from certain activities, removal of leadership position, referral to the Scoutmaster, or referral to the Troop Committee for severe violations, in accordance with Troop 119's Scout Law Policy.

I will do my best to live up to the Scout Oath and Law and agree to follow this Code of Conduct.

Scout Signature _____

Date: _____