

# Troop 255 Code of Conduct

## **Introduction:**

It is the intent of Boy Scouts of America and Troop 255 to provide an opportunity for boys and young men to learn and develop, and to provide a positive image and offer service to the community. Many boys and young men are committing significant time and energy to Scouting in Troop 255, with the goals of having fun, gaining knowledge and skills, and advancing in rank. Many adults are donating significant time and energy to helping Scouts in our Troop work on achieving their goals. These efforts require and deserve an environment free of disruptive behavior.

The Troop's rules are set out in the Scout Oath and Law. To advance the principles and values of Scouting, it is the Scout leaders' and the adult leaders' responsibility to ensure that Troop members follow these rules. This Code of Conduct lists examples of conduct that violates the Troop's rules, and sets out disciplinary procedures and certain consequences of breaking these rules. These rules and disciplinary procedures have been adopted by the Patrol Leaders Council and the Troop Committee.

## **Troop Rules:**

These rules should be familiar to every member of the Troop:

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

## **Examples of Conduct that Violates the Troop Rules:**

To make it clear that the Troop's rules are not just words recited at the start of meetings, the following examples describe behavior that violates these rules. These are only examples, not a complete list:

1. Hitting, slapping, or other physical violence toward anyone is not acceptable. It is not trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, or reverent.
2. Threatening, bullying, insulting, or excessively teasing anyone is not acceptable. It is not trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, or reverent.

3. Use, possession, or being under the influence of tobacco, alcohol, or other non-prescription drugs at Scout meeting or events is not acceptable. It is not helpful, obedient, clean, or reverent, and does not keep you physically strong, mentally awake, or morally straight.
4. Taking anyone else's property without their permission is not acceptable. It is not trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, or morally straight.
5. Destroying anyone else's property is not acceptable. It is not trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, thrifty, or morally straight.
6. Damaging the environment is not acceptable. It is not trustworthy, helpful, courteous, obedient, thrifty, clean, or reverent.
7. Disobeying or being insubordinate to Scout leaders or adult leaders is not acceptable. It is not trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, or cheerful.
8. Leaving other Scouts in a dangerous situation is not acceptable. It is not trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, brave, or morally straight.
9. Other disruptive behavior – such as excessive talking that interrupts meetings or presentations, or using foul language – is not helpful, courteous, or obedient.

**Further Guidelines:**

1. Troop members must follow the principles of Leave No Trace and the Boy Scout Outdoor Code.
2. Troop members must follow BSA safety rules, such as the buddy system and rules regarding knives.
3. Troop members must also follow the rules of any organization hosting a Troop activity. For example, Scouts must follow the Yacht Club's rules during Troop meetings. At summer camp Scouts must follow Wente's rules, such as swimming only in designated areas. And on trips Scouts must follow any applicable County Park, State Park, National Park, or other rules. Breaking other organizations' rules is not trustworthy, helpful, courteous, or obedient.
4. Scouts and parents should not leave Troop meetings or other events until everything is cleaned up and put away. As an example, no one should leave a Court of Honor potluck dinner until all the food, dishes and utensils are packed up, the room is swept, and the tables and chairs are all put away. Leaving others to clean up is not helpful, courteous, or clean.

## **Disciplinary Procedures and Consequences:**

The following disciplinary procedures and consequences are intended to make sure that everyone in the Troop follows the Scout Oath and Law, and knows the consequences of breaking these rules. The goal of these procedures is not to remove any boy from Scouting activities, but to make sure that each Scout has the opportunity to enjoy and benefit from the Troop's activities without disruption.

1. A Scout who hits, slaps, pushes, threatens, bullies, or engages in any other physical violence toward another person (such as throwing objects in the direction of another person, intentional misuse of a pocket-knife, or deliberately hurting someone in any manner) will be removed from the meeting or other activity. If at a meeting, the Scout's parent will be asked to take him home. If his parent is not present, the Scout will remain seated away from the activity, under supervision, and will be taken home when a parent arrives or the meeting ends. If at camp or on a trip, the Scout will be sent home.
  - a. The Scout will be suspended from Troop activities until the Scout and a parent have met with the Scoutmaster and Troop Committee. The Scoutmaster and Troop Committee will decide whether further measures are warranted.
  - b. A Scout who hits, slaps, pushes, threatens, bullies, or engages in any other physical violence toward another person a second time will be removed from the activity and suspended from Troop activities for at least 60 days, or longer if determined by the Scoutmaster and Troop Committee. After that time period ends, the Scout and a parent will meet with the Scoutmaster and Troop Committee. During or after that meeting, the Scoutmaster and Troop Committee will decide whether further discipline is warranted.
  - c. A Scout who hits, slaps, pushes, threatens, bullies, or engages in any other physical violence toward another person a third time will be removed from the activity and expelled from the Troop.
2. A Scout who possesses, uses, or is under the influence of tobacco, alcohol, or other non-prescription drugs at a Scout meeting or event will be removed from the meeting or event. If at a meeting, the Scout's parent will be asked to take him home. If his parent is not present, the Scout will remain seated away from the activity, under supervision, and will be taken home when a parent arrives or the meeting ends. If at camp or on a trip, the Scout will be sent home.
  - a. The Scout will be suspended indefinitely from the Troop, and the Scout and a parent will meet with the Scoutmaster and Troop Committee. During or after that meeting, the Scoutmaster and Troop Committee will decide what discipline is warranted. Such discipline may include suspension from the Troop for a specified period, a requirement that the Scout perform community service before

reinstatement, and a requirement that the Scout may only attend Troop meetings and trips under his parent's supervision for a specified period. In the alternative, the Scout may be expelled from the Troop.

- b. If a Scout possesses, uses, or is under the influence of tobacco, alcohol, or other non-prescription drugs at Scout meeting or event for a second time, the Scout will be removed from the activity and expelled from the Troop.
3. If a Scout is expelled from the Troop, we are not prohibiting the boy from participating in Boy Scouting, and he may seek to join another troop. The Troop will supply a list of contacts at other troops and, if requested, will transfer Scouting records.
  4. If a Scout violates the Troop's rules in any other manner – not including the rule violations described in paragraphs 1 and 2 above – the following procedures apply:
    - a. When possible, issues should be resolved using the boy-led chain of command. But these guidelines do not apply to rule violations described in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, which will be addressed by the Scoutmaster and Troop Committee.
    - b. Patrol Leaders (including Assistant Patrol Leaders) have the authority to resolve issues arising in their patrols without imposing discipline. The Patrol Leader should warn the Scout that his behavior is violating Troop rules, and try to convince the Scout to stop the inappropriate behavior. If the Scout continues violating Troop rules, Patrol Leaders have the authority to direct the Scout to leave a patrol activity, but not to require the Scout to leave a Troop meeting or event.
    - c. If the Patrol Leader has difficulty handling problem behavior, or believes that a patrol member should be disciplined for breaking rules, the Patrol Leader should direct the patrol member to report to the Senior Patrol Leader or to an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.
    - d. The Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders, acting together, have the authority to resolve issues arising as to any Scout in the Troop without imposing discipline. The Senior Patrol Leader or Assistant Senior Patrol Leader should warn the Scout that his behavior is violating Troop rules, and try to convince the Scout to stop the inappropriate behavior.
    - e. The Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders have the authority to remove a Scout from an activity, but not to require that the Scout leave a Troop meeting or event. Youth leaders may warn the Scout that his behavior is inappropriate, and may determine whether the Scout should be permitted to rejoin the activity.
    - f. If the Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders have trouble resolving a behavior issue, or believe that a Scout should be disciplined, the

Senior Patrol Leader or Assistant Senior Patrol Leader should raise the issue with the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster. In that event, the Senior Patrol Leader or Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders will discuss the issue with the Scout and the adult leaders.

- g. If the issue is not resolved by discussion, or by removing the Scout from an activity, the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster may determine that the Scout should leave the meeting or event. In that event, the Scout's parent will be asked to take him home. If his parent is not present, the Scout will remain seated away from the activity, under supervision, and will be taken home when a parent arrives or the meeting or event ends.
- h. If the Scoutmaster believes that discipline is warranted for violation of the Troop rules, the Scoutmaster may impose any or all of the following consequences, without approval from the Troop Committee:
  - i. Requiring a Scout to leave a meeting or other event.
  - ii. Requiring an oral apology to a Scout, adult leader, a patrol, or the Troop.
  - iii. Requiring a written apology to a Scout, adult leader, a patrol, or the Troop.
  - iv. Requiring the Scout to repair or replace anything damaged.
  - v. Requiring a parent to supervise the Scout at meetings or other events for a specified period.
  - vi. The Scoutmaster may determine that the Scout's behavior was not consistent with Scout Spirit, or did not follow the Scout Law, and the Scoutmaster may determine that the Scout's behavior during a specified time period did not meet that requirement for rank advancement.
- i. If the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster believes that a Scout's violation of the Troop rules warrants other discipline, the Scoutmaster and the Troop Committee will meet with the Scout and his parent. After that meeting, the Scoutmaster and the Troop Committee, acting together, may impose further discipline, including but not limited to:
  - i. Requiring the Scout to perform community service, which will not count toward rank advancement.
  - ii. Requiring the Scout to perform a service project to the Troop.
  - iii. Suspending the Scout from a leadership position for a specified period.
  - iv. Suspending the Scout from meetings and other events for a specified period.
  - v. Expelling the Scout from the Troop.

**Grievance Procedure**

Troop 255 is committed to advancing each Scout’s goals and interests, while safeguarding all the Scouts in the Troop. To ensure open communication, all Scouts, parents and guardian are encouraged to raise any questions or concerns with the Troop’s adult leadership.

Any Scout, parent, or guardian with a concern regarding behavior, discipline, the Troop’s program, or any other matter relating to Scouting, is encouraged to raise and discuss the matter with the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster. If any issue needs to be resolved after discussion with the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters, any Scout, parent, or guardian may raise the issue with the Troop Committee Chair, who will bring the matter before the Troop Committee. The Troop Committee will address the matter, and will meet with the Scout, parent and/or guardian to resolve the matter.

READ AND ACKNOWLEDGED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scout

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_