

Code of Conduct and Behavior Expectations

Why have a Code of Conduct?

Over the years the behavior of most Scouts is very good. A Scout that follows the Scout Oath and Law will not have any problem getting along with fellow Scouts and with the adult leadership. Sometimes it is necessary to discipline Scouts for behavior that runs contrary to Scouting ideals. The following policy is designed to let Scouts and parents know what the limits are and the measures we will take to discipline the Scout if the expectations set forth herein are not met. .

Essentially, these rules are designed to help make activities better experiences for all, rather than detract from the experience.

Each year, every Scout participating in Troop 897 activities and their parent or guardian shall reaffirm their commitment to the troop by reading, printing and signing the Code of Conduct.

Unit Responsibilities

Adult leaders of Scouting units are responsible for monitoring the behavior of youth members and interceding when necessary. Parents of youth members who misbehave should be informed and asked for assistance in dealing with the incident. The unit committee should review repetitive or serious incidents of misbehavior in consultation with the parents of the child to determine a course of corrective action including possible revocation of the youth's membership in Troop 897.

Adult leaders must prioritize the health, safety, and cohesion of the Troop always. If any Scout(s) are endangering the health or safety of any Scout or the success of an outing, there may be immediate remediation as necessary by the adult leaders and/or committee members. Adult leaders on any trip have the authority to remedy negative behaviors. These remedies will vary based on the magnitude of the incident but will not involve derogatory treatment or corporal punishment by any adult leader.

Troop 897 Code of Conduct

September 2025

In order to provide a positive, safe, and enriching environment for all Scouts and allow for a variety of adventures, I will adhere to the following rules set by members of the troop:

1. I will follow the Scout Law, Scout Oath, Motto, and Outdoor Code. I will remember that these are the basis for all the following rules and should be the basis for all my actions.
2. I will follow the posted or verbal schedule of activities and assignments specified by troop leadership.
3. I will use the buddy system during all troop outings and inform troop leadership where I'm going before leaving the campsite or troop activity area.
4. I will never leave the park, camp, or any other property at which Troop 897 is holding an activity, nor will I enter a private establishment without explicit permission from troop leadership.
5. I will do my best to be on time and wear the appropriate uniform for all troop events.
6. I will not use or possess any alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or illegal drugs. If found or detected, my parents (and/or the police, if necessary) will be notified immediately.
7. I will not bring electronic devices on any campout except cell phones or cameras without explicit permission from troop leadership.
8. If I bring my cell phone to an outing, I alone am responsible for it. I will keep it silent or on vibrate and will not use it during the day except as a tool or resource. Troop leadership may give guidance allowing phone use during activities as time allows. I will not use phones or any electronic device to separate myself or a small group of Scouts away from the unit.
9. When on outings I understand that lights will be out, I will be quiet, and I will be in bed by the times stated by troop leadership.
10. Because sounds that can be heard outside my tent after lights out are disrespectful and disturbing to others, I will use headphones or earbuds when using my device to listen to music or watch videos.
11. I will be responsible for any property owned by a camp, the troop, or another individual that I damage.
12. I will not use profanity or abusive language.
13. I will use matches and lighters only when appropriate and safe. I will always follow Firem'n Chit rules.
14. I will follow Totin' Chip rules and regulations when using knives, saws, and axes.
15. Troop 897 is primarily responsible for the behavior, safety, and welfare of our members on all camping events. At District or Council events, as well as at BSA camps, all District/Council/Camp leaders have the right and responsibility of

helping and correcting any problem they encounter. I will follow the directions of those leaders as if they were my troop's leaders.

16. I understand that if I cannot follow these rules, any discipline will be up to the troop leadership in accordance with the troop behavior policy, and their decision is final.
17. I will wear my uniform to BSA standards to any troop events or activities, unless given explicit permission by adult leaders.
18. I will treat all adults, adult leaders, scouts, youth leaders, and other units with respect.
19. I will demonstrate respect for any Unit or Troop equipment, public property, and tents, and I will be personally responsible for cleanliness and any loss, breakage, or vandalism of property.
20. I will be respectful of any meeting space donated to the Troop and keep it clean. I will conduct myself in an appropriate way and not engage in horseplay while in a sanctuary environment.

Consequences

It is the obligation of the adult leadership to support the troop program. Adult leaders must all be sure that all activities offer safety and security for all attending, leaning heavily on the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#). If any Scout or Scouts jeopardizes the safety and security of themselves or the group, it is up to the adult in charge to take corrective action regarding the Scouts involved.

For serious behavior problems, the Scout will have to be removed from the troop activity. The procedure will be to call the parent(s)/legal guardian(s). The parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of the Scout will be responsible for providing transportation for their Scout to be removed from that activity.

For some less serious behavior problems, a Scout may be asked not to attend the next troop activity. If this happens the parents/legal guardian(s) will be called and told the reasons for the corrective measures.

Causes for Removal from Troop Activities

The following behaviors will be cause for the Scout to be removed from the activity:

1. Possession of a weapon such as guns (including BB/pellet/look-a-like), sling shots, or any other device used in a threatening manner which includes pocketknives, sharpened sticks, etc.
2. Possession and use of alcohol. Alcohol use is not allowed by youth or adults on any Scout activity.
3. Possession and/or use of prescription drugs or controlled substances. This is not allowed by youth or adults on any Scout activity. All prescription drugs needed to be taken at camp by a youth must be turned over to a leader with written directions for dispensing, including any potential side effects.
4. Possession and use of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, cannabis and their derivatives. Use of these products is not allowed by youth on any Scout activity. Adults shall set an example and refrain from tobacco use within sight of the youth.
5. Threatening others with bodily harm.
6. Theft.
7. Disrespect for troop leadership, youth and adult included.
8. Hazing.

The following behaviors may necessitate a Scout missing a future Scout activity:

1. Leaving an activity or activity area without notification and permission of troop leadership or not using the buddy system.
2. Not following camp rules.
3. The use of unacceptable language.
4. Fighting.
5. Refusing to complete jobs on the duty roster.
6. Not allowing others to sleep during quiet times.
7. Damage to property.
8. Repeatedly not following directions from the trip leader or adult leaders.

All problems will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Scoutmaster and an assigned group of no less than two (2) Troop Committee members. If the Scout or parent(s) or guardian(s) of the Scout would like additional explanation, parent(s) or guardian(s) of the Scout may contact the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chair.

High Adventure Trips

Because High Adventure trips present unique challenges and require crews to work effectively as a team in sometimes strenuous situations, it is important that all crew members can be trusted to abide by the Code of Conduct at all times. Therefore, if a Scout

has demonstrated a pattern of behaviors in conflict with the Code of Conduct, he may be restricted from attending a High Adventure Trip without a parent or guardian and only upon application to the Troop Committee. A group of no less than two (2) Troop Committee members will decide if the Scout and his or her parent or guardian may attend the High Adventure trip.

Electronic Device Policy

Many people visit the great outdoors to get away from technology. Please respect their desire for solitude and be considerate when using a cell phone or speakers.

Troop 897 follows the Leave No Trace Cell Phone Use Guidance. It is recognized that many outdoor recreationists carry cell phones for safety and emergencies. Be considerate of other visitors, carry and use cell phones out-of-sight and sound of other people. Keep them turned off until needed or left in a pocket on the “vibrate” or “silent” ringer setting.

Cell phone use of cameras is approved during most activities but must follow BSA Youth Protection guidelines. Inappropriate use of smartphones, cameras, imaging, or digital devices is prohibited. Although most Scouts and leaders use cameras and other imaging devices responsibly, it is easy to unintentionally or inadvertently invade the privacy of other individuals with those devices. The use of any device capable of recording or transmitting visual images in or near shower houses, restrooms, or other areas where privacy is expected is prohibited.

To be consistent with the outdoor method of Scouting, the use of electronic devices, such as games, cell phones and speakers, must adhere to the following rules:

- Electronics and cell phones may be used in vehicles to and from camp, but only with the permission of the driver.
- Electronic devices or phones brought to campouts or activities should not be used for casual use until all Troop activities are completed for the day.
- During the day, phones are not to be used except as tools (such as leaf identification, Scout-related apps such as Knots 3D, and researching information related to an activity).
- Phones may be used once Scouts turn in for the evening (quiet time) but the sound must be off, or Scouts must use earbuds or headphones.
- Scouts may not use another Scout’s device without express permission.
- Adult leaders will not provide their vehicle or other means for charging devices.
- In shared communications (texting, for example) or on social media, Scouts will always maintain appropriate communication standards. Swearing, harassing language or bullying is not acceptable under any circumstances.

Any Scout choosing to ignore these guidelines will not be permitted to bring their phone or electronic device to any Scout sponsored event.

Food and Beverages

No high caffeine energy drinks such as Monster, Red Bull, Rock Star etc. are allowed, as these products lead to dehydration. The same applies to 2-liter containers of soda. Drinks such as Vita Water or Gatorade-type drinks are suggested. Patrol food money shall never be used to purchase candy or sodas.

Prohibited Items

- Firearms (except within Scout-sanctioned activities with proper supervision, such as at Scout camps or troop outings to private weapon ranges)
- Fireworks of any kind
- Knives with blades longer than 4" (including machetes)
 - No sheath knives of any kind are permitted at any Point
 - Policies at Scout camps, whether council or national, may override troop policy

I will take steps to prevent or report any violation of this Code of Conduct by others in connection with Scouting activities.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I will abide by the Troop 897 Code of Conduct and accept consequences that may happen if I do not follow the Code of Conduct.

Scout Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date