Boy Scout Troop 95

Kiwanis Club Georgetown, Chartered Organization
510 S. Bedford Str., Georgetown, Delaware 19947

POLICIES

PARENTS & SCOUTS:

Troop 95 has identified the following policies to promote a safe and standard scouting experience for all scouts and leaders of Troop 95. All policies are reviewed and enacted by the troop committee in collaboration with the Scout Master and Chartering organization representative.

The calendar has been planned by the Patrol Leader Council with the guidance of the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters and approved by the Troop Committee. This calendar covers regular Troop meetings, PLC meetings, Committee Meetings, campouts, various Troop related activities, when money is due for campout food and special events, OA information, etc.

We have attempted to identify the fundraisers that we feel will best serve the Troop's financial needs **PLUS** gives each Scout the opportunity to "***earn his way through Scouting***". The fundraisers selected are included on the calendar (beginning and ending time frames) and are noted as **Troop** or **Scout**.

- **Troop** fundraisers always need your help to make them successful and to help bring funds into the Troop to cover such expenses as patches, equipment upkeep, merit badges, etc.
- ***It is a Scout's responsibility to help support his Troop financially. Scouts are expected to participate/assist in the fundraisers that support his Troop.***
- **Scout** fundraisers provide 2 things:
  a) An opportunity to earn credit so the Scout can participate in the many activities offered by the Troop (ski trip, white water rafting, summer camp, high adventure, etc.) and not simply asking for money from Mom and Dad. This is also an opportunity for a Scout to learn about being **Thrifty**, the 9th point of the Scout Law.
  b) A choice of what fundraisers the Scout wants to do. Keep in mind a Scout has the opportunity to participate in **one or <u>all</u>** of the fundraisers offered, which means more credit he earns for himself.

TROOP POLICIES

1) Troop Meetings are on *Thursday night at Jones Hall from 7:00pm to 8:30pm*.

2) Uniform Policy (Effective 9/7/00):
The purpose of this policy is to provide a properly uniformed Scout Troop at weekly meetings, camporees, special activities, community events, and summer camp. Uniformity is a critical part of a successful unit and promotes a level of pride in each scout. Class A is always required unless told otherwise (like en-route to and from a special event). The Troop Committee does not wish to impose a hardship on anyone so we do have

gently used Scout pants (both long and short), some socks, Troop hats, Troop Class B t-shirts and other scouting t-shirts – please see one of the troop committee members if needed.

Class A: BSA Official Scout shirt (must have all required insignias in place), BSA Official Scout long or short pants with BSA Scout web or leather belt (preferably dark), green Scout knee socks with red band (purchased from: www.scoutsocks.com), dark shoes (light colored or white shoes are NOT acceptable, nor are crocks, sanuks, flip flops, sandals – if you have to ask then the answer is NO), Troop 95 hat, Troop neckerchief (with a slide – do not tie the neckerchief) OR for Scouts that are Star rank and above - they can wear a bolo.

Parents: The adult leadership reserves the right in determining the appropriateness of neckerchief slides and bolos. The intent is that the Scout maintains the integrity of appearance consistent with BSA standards.

Class B: **GRAY** Troop 95 T-Shirt (Eagle logo on back with sleeves), - unless told otherwise, BSA Official Scout shorts or BSA Official Scout long pants with BSA Scout web or leather belt (preferably dark), green Scout knee socks with red band (purchased from: www.scoutsocks.com), dark shoes (light colored or white shoes are NOT acceptable, nor are crocks, sanuks, flip flops, sandals – if you have to ask then the answer is NO), Troop 95 hat.

Parents – please make sure your son is complying with this policy. It will make things easier for everyone.

SUMMER CAMP: BSA Official Scout Class A Shirt, Troop Hat, Troop Neckerchief with a slide, BSA Scout web or dark leather belt, BSA Official Scout **SHORTS** (no long pants), green Scout knee socks with red band (purchased from: www.scoutsocks.com), hiking boots. ***(ALL Scouts are required to wear their Troop neckerchief; bolos are not permitted.)***. Eagle Scouts can wear their Eagle Neckerchiefs.

NOTE - Effective 5/31/02: Scouts & Leaders will be required to wear BSA Official Scout shorts to summer camp. This is an on-going effort to keep the Troop consistently uniformed.

3) **Patrol Leader Council (PLC)** meetings are held on the ***4th Wednesday of the month (please check the calendar) at Wesley Church from 7:00pm to 8:30pm.*** The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), Asst. Sr. Patrol Leader, Quartermasters and ***ALL*** Patrol Leaders are expected to attend this meeting. If a Patrol Leader cannot make it then he should call his Asst. Patrol Leader to attend so his patrol can be represented. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and plan the weekly Troop meetings with the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters guidance. ***ALL adult leaders are encouraged to attend this monthly planning meeting.***

4) **Troop Committee Meetings** are held on the ***4th Wednesday of each month at Wesley Church from 6:30 pm to 8:00pm*** in the Margaret Henderson Room. All Troop Committee members are expected to attend.

5) **Board of Reviews: W**ill be held as needed and are conducted for advancement in Rank – a Scout should know if he is ready – the Troop Committee Chair, Advancement Officer or Scoutmaster will contact him as a reminder.

6) **OA Chapter Meetings** are held monthly. Arrowmen need to make sure they are on the Sussex Chapter email list for location. Class A uniform and OA sash are required (unless otherwise advised).

7) **CAMPOUTS are scheduled each month from September to May (possibly June).**

a) Menu and Duty Rosters are completed at a Troop meeting at least one (or two weeks) **BEFORE** the scheduled campout. This is when the Troop **needs** to know if a Scout intends to attend that campout. The Troop committee reviews the attendance for each patrol in order to establish the food buyers.

MONEY MUST BE PAID AT THE BEGINNING OF TROOP MEETING.

b) Tent Partner sign up is done one week prior to the campout.

c) Each regular campout costs **$25.00.** This covers $13.00 for food and $12.00 for transportation expenses/gas/vehicle maintenance**.** Any additional cost will be announced.

d) Food buyers will be given a check at the end of the meeting for their patrol. This will cover the amount needed to purchase food for the number of patrol members attending the campout.

e) Food Buyers **DO NOT NEED TO BUY** the following items: trash bags, dish detergent, scrubbies, oil, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, butter and pancake syrup. These are provided by the Troop**. DO NOT BUY ANYTHING IN GLASS or FROZEN FOOD ITEMS.**

f) Parents of Food Buyers: Please ***ASSIST / SUPERVISE*** your son in his food buying efforts! **DO NOT DO IT FOR HIM** – he will never learn himself!

g) Food Buyers: **DO NOT LEAVE THE MENU/DUTY ROSTER AT HOME!** It needs to be on the campout.

h) Food Buyers should be at the church by 6:15 p.m. to pack their camp kitchens and coolers.

i) Scouts not buying food need to arrive at the church by 6:30pm.

j) Uniforms **ARE NOT REQUIRED** at regular monthly campouts unless you have been directed by the SPL and adult leaders (such as a District Camporee).

8) **Discipline Policy (effective 9/3/15) - For all Scouting events, meetings, and campouts:**

The Chain of Command regarding a concern where a problem has been witnessed by any Scout/Leader concerning another Scout (or a Leader):

1. YOU have seen/heard something that is not part of Scouting behavior expectations; what do you do?
2. Talk to the Scout(s) directly, if this is impossible or uncomfortable for you;
    a. Tell the Senior Patrol Leader or Asst. Senior PL, and together address the concern.
    b. Tell the Scoutmaster (with another Scout).
    c. Tell an adult leader (with another Scout).

Incident reporting and disciplinary action:

1. The incident will be documented in writing and placed in the Incident Binder.
    a. Two adult leaders will immediately discuss the incident with the offending Scout.
    b. The incident report document will be signed by those involved in the discussion.
    c. Once the event has concluded, the incident will be discussed with the parent(s) and the offending Scout.
    d. The incident report will remain on file in the Incident Binder, and may be revisited and discussed during a Board of Review.

9) **Electronics Policy (effective 7/1/17):**

- Electronic Devices consist of the following:

- Cell phones / iPhones / Smart Phones
- iPads / Tablets / Laptops
- iPods / MP3 /Any 'e-reading – devices
- VR Glasses / Smart Watches
- Digital Cameras

- Electronic Devices noted above **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED** at any Troop 95 meeting or related activity/campout/summer camp/fundraiser/service project, etc., unless approved by Scoutmaster or Troop Comm. Chair.

- **1st Offense**:
  - Parent/Guardian will be notified by the Scoutmaster and expected to immediately come and pick up their son**, regardless of where the Troop is**. The violation will be documented. The scout will not get credit for the campout/service project/working a fundraiser and he will lose his Position of Responsibility. There will not be any refunds issued. If the scout need the campout/service hours/position of responsibility for rank advancement, he will not receive them, which will delay his advancement.

- **2nd Offense**
  - Parent/Guardian will be notified by the Scoutmaster and expected to immediately come and pick up their son**, regardless of where the Troop is**. The violation will be documented. The scout will not get credit for the campout/service project/working a fundraiser and he will lose his Position of Responsibility. There will not be any refunds issued. If the scout need the campout/service hours/position of responsibility for rank advancement, he will not receive them, which will delay his advancement.
  - Scout will receive a **30-day suspension** from any Troop 95 related activity/campout/fundraiser/service project, etc.

- **3rd Offense**
  - Parent/Guardian will be notified by the Scoutmaster and expected to immediately come and pick up their son**, regardless of where the Troop is**. The violation will be documented.
  - **EXPLUSION from Troop 95 for 90 days.**

NOTE #1: If you want your son to have use of an electronic device then perhaps you need to find another troop that will allow them

NOTE #2: Any use of a cell phone displaying sexually related or pornography pictures, the parents will be contacted immediately as well as the Delaware State Police. At that time the situation is between the parents and the State Police.

10) Bullying/Inappropriate Language/Profanity Policy (effective 7/1/17):

- Definitions:
  - *Bullying*:
    - An action such as blustering, quarrelsome, overbearing done by a person who habitually badgers and intimidates smaller or weaker people.
    - One who is habitually cruel, insulting, or threatening to others who are weaker, smaller, or in some way vulnerable
    - The use of force, threat or coercion to abuse, intimidate or aggressively dominate others. The behavior is often repeated and habitual. Behaviors used to assert such domination can include verbal harassment or threat, physical assault or coercion., and such acts may be directed repeatedly towards particular targets. Rationalizations of such behavior sometimes include differences of social class, race, religion, gender,

sexual orientation, appearance, behavior, body language, personality, reputation, lineage, strength, size or ability.

- *Inappropriate Language*:
  - Sexually explicit language
  - Racial comments
  - Excessive cussing or swearing
- *Profanity:* Socially offensive language which may also be called swear or curse words, cuss words, bad or crude language.

☐ **1st Offense**

- Parent/Guardian will be notified by the Scoutmaster and expected to immediately come and pick up their son**, regardless of where the Troop is**. The violation will be documented. The scout will not get credit for the campout/service project/working a fundraiser and he will lose his Position of Responsibility. There will not be any refunds issued. A meeting will be scheduled with the Scout, Parent(s), Scoutmaster and designated Discipline Leader (a member of the committee) to discuss bullying and/or use of inappropriate language/profanity to determine the next steps.

☐ **2nd Offense**

- Parent/Guardian will be notified by the Scoutmaster and expected to immediately come and pick up their son**, regardless of where the Troop is**. The violation will be documented. The scout will not get credit for the campout/service project/working a fundraiser and he will lose his Position of Responsibility. There will not be any refunds issued. A meeting will be scheduled with the Scout, Parent(s), Scoutmaster and designated Discipline Leader (a member of the committee) to discuss bullying and/or use of inappropriate language/profanity and he will be suspended for 30 days. This will result in loss of Position of Responsibility.
- He will be required to type a 1,000-word essay on the effects of bullying and the impact it has on a person or why he should not be using bad language. The essay will also include how he will stop this type of action and what he is going to do to better follow the 12 points of the Scout Law.
- This essay is to be typed and turned in one week after the incident.

☐ **3rd Offense**

- Parent/Guardian will be notified by the Scoutmaster and expected to immediately come and pick up their son**, regardless of where the Troop is**. The violation will be documented.
- **EXPLUSION from Troop 95**

11) Knife Policy (effective 8/1/18): A scout should only have in his possession ONE knife.

- ✔ It should the standard 'Boy Scout Knife' such as a Swiss Army knife or a Leatherman - which has several 'tools' and functions.
- ✔ You **MUST** have your **Tote n' Chit** card on you whenever you carry your knife
- ✔ **Sheath blades or a fixed blade is NOT ALLOWED in TROOP 95.**
- ✔ Your knife should be in a case attached to your belt.
- ✔ You should **NEVER** allow anyone to use your knife.

Any use of your knife which is not in compliance with Boy Scout or Troop 95 policy will result in the knife being confiscated and given to your parents at the end of the campout or scout event.

12) Uniform

- **Uniforms:** A scout's uniform should be clean, free of stains, holes, rips, etc.
- **Troop hat**: If your Troop hat is frayed or falling apart, a scout will be **required** to purchase a new one.
- **Insignias**: Each scout is expected to have all current insignias/patches securely attached to his uniform in the correct location. Attaching a patch with a safety pin is not acceptable.
- **Socks**: Once socks are frayed, with holes or runs in them, a scout will be **required** to purchase a new pair.

13) Grooming

- **Hair**: Each scout (and leader) should make sure their hair is kept clean and if long enough, needs to be in a ponytail during any scout event/meeting/summer camp, etc.
- **Jewelry**: If a scout or leader chooses to wear earrings, they must be small studs, nothing dangling as this becomes a safety issue.
- **Necklaces**: If a scout or leader chooses to wear a necklace it must be kept inside the shirt at all times OR not worn during troop meetings, campouts and other scouting events.
- **Nails**: Must be clean and free of nail polish.

14) **Merit Badge** Night will be schedule as needed and then announced. Scouts should be 1st Class to participate in Troop Merit Badge Night classes. Those Scouts under 1st Class will remain focused in working on requirements to reach 1st Class since rank advancement is the core of the Scouting program. Class B uniform can be worn for Merit Badge nights. *(The Troop typically offers ALL Scouts an opportunity to earn merit badges that are part of a campout or special meeting program.)*

15) **"*ACTIVE in your TROOP*":** Refers to attendance and participation in Troop meetings and monthly campouts plus participation in Troop service projects, community service, Scout Sunday, supporting Troop fundraisers, demonstrating leadership and good citizenship to younger Scouts. If you are NOT 'Active in your Troop' then you will be considered an 'inactive scout'.

This is a reminder to Star and Life Scouts who should be setting the example for younger Scouts to follow. The official Troop Attendance Policy is shown below – Please review it for your benefit.

16) **Older Scout Program:** The leaders and committee make every attempt to incorporate various activities for older Scouts (aged 14 min., Star rank and above) in an effort to improve retention. Please refer to the Older Scout Program Policy shown below for details.

17) **Social Media Policy - (effective 9/1/23)**

- Troop 95 uses social media for outreach and information updates for troop members and the community. This includes the Troop web page, YouTube channel and other social media outlets. Photos of scouts may be posted to these sites and will be available for public view. If you wish for your child to not be included in social media please submit in writing this request to the Troop Committee Chair or Scout Master to be reviewed with the Troop committee. Failure to inform the committee of your opposition will be implied consent.

SCOUT ATTENDANCE POLICY

A meeting of Troop Committee Members, Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters was held on February 4, 2004 for the sole purpose of reviewing the attendance policy. The former policy from 1/6/99 was discussed and amended. This policy was reviewed by the Patrol Leaders Council in March 2015 and the youth unanimously upheld and endorsed this policy. The current policy is noted below and tracking of attendance is from January 1st to December 31st within a given calendar year.

Attendance is tracked for the purpose of a scout being eligible for participation in the annual Ski Trip, the traditional 50 mile hike (held once every 4 years), the traditional Canadian Canoe Trip (again – held once every 4 years), ***and rank advancement Board of Reviews.*** If a Scout has not met the requirements noted below then he may not be eligible to participate in the special events and may not be presented for his Board of Review.

- **A *Scout must attend 50% of the scheduled monthly campouts*** for the current calendar year to be eligible to participate in the next year's special events (if there are 8 campouts, he needs to have participated in 4 of them).
- The ***Scout must attend a minimum of 2 Troop meeting a month*** for the current calendar year to be eligible to participate in the next year's special events.
- The Scout should meet the first 2 requirements to be eligible for a Board of Review for rank advancement.
- The Scout must meet the first 2 requirements, be 1st Class and 13 years of age by January 1st of the year of the 50-Mile Hike, to be eligible to participate in the hike.
- The Scout must meet the first 2 requirements, be 1st Class and 14 years of age by January 1st of the year of the Canadian Canoe Trip, to be eligible to participate in the trip.
- **All payments must be made on time**.
- Full refunds will be made if possible in the event of a cancellation but the Scout understands there could be loss of payments.
- Exceptions to this policy are not acceptable unless there are extenuating circumstances that would be reviewed by the Troop Committee.

ADULT ATTENDANCE POLICY

A registered leader should be setting an example to the scouts not only by wearing the proper uniform, but by setting the tone of what it means to be active in the Troop.

- ***A registered leader must attend 50% of the scheduled monthly campouts*** for the current calendar year to be eligible to participate in the next year's special events (if there are 8 campouts, he needs to have participated in 4 of them) and contribute to the weekend camping program.
- The ***registered leader must attend a minimum of 1 Troop meeting a month*** for the current calendar year and contribute to the program, to be eligible to participate in the next year's special events.
- The ***registered leader must meet the first 2 requirements***, to be eligible to participate in the 50-Mile Hike or Canadian Canoe Trip.
- There are several parents of former scouts and non-registered leaders that have been 'grandfathered' and will be permitted to attend the annual ski trip and other special events. Registered Leaders must get approval from the Troop Committee to include spouse or significant other on the annual ski trip and other special events. Non-registered adults may be invited to attend special events or outings by the Troop Committee.
- Eagle Scouts have earned the right to attend the ski trip, however those under the age of 21 are not to include/invite their significant others. Those age 21 and above must get approval from the Troop Committee to include spouse or significant other the same as applies to registered leadership.

Approved by Troop Committee 6/9/24

- Eagle Scouts have earned the right to attend the high adventure activities, however they are not to include/invite their significant others. For insurance purposes, these events are intended only for BSA registered youth and leaders meeting the BSA high adventure requirements.
- **All payments must be made on time.**
- Full refunds will be made if possible in the event of a cancellation but the Scout understands there could be loss of payments.

OLDER SCOUT PROGRAM

The purpose of this program is not to replace being active in the regular Troop 95 activities but to provide older Scouts a variety of activities which they can participate in, enjoy, and are challenging without the younger scouts being present, thus retaining the older scouts in the Troop.

- This program is designed for Scouts aged 14 – 18 and must be the rank of Star.
- These activities ***DO NOT TAKE THE PLACE*** of regular Troop Meetings or Campouts.
- An Assistant Scoutmaster or other registered adult, along with the SPL, will meet periodically with the older scouts to solicit ideas for activities. Those present at the meeting will decide (or vote) on what they would like to do as an older scout activity. The SPL or designated scout with the guidance/assistance of a leader will coordinate the event and communicate this information back to the group.
- Two registered leaders, both trained in Youth Protection, at least one who is age 21 or older, and at least one trained in Safety Afloat, Safe Swim Defence and Hazardous Weather Conditions, must be present at ALL Older Scout activities or it will be cancelled.
- All Scout policies **MUST BE** followed: such as a completed Troop Committee approval, transportation arrangements, and what is allowed at Scout activities (complying with BSA Guide to Safe Scouting), etc.
- If the scouts require any funding by the Troop Committee, then the activity must be presented to the Committee 30 days in advance (i.e. - camping fees).

SCOUT DRIVING POLICY

Since we typically have more than 30 people attending our outings, the Troop has invested in the acquisition of a commercial school bus. This not only provides a safer method of transporting a large group; it minimizes the difficulties in coordinating multiple drivers in multiple vehicles. It also provides an opportunity for the Scouts (and leaders who ride with them) to build upon friendships, enjoy games/songs/cheers, and plan and coordinate activities together. It is essential that adequate, safe, and responsible transportation be used for all Scouting activities. Therefore, Troop 95 makes certain that we follow the BSA Guide to Safe Scouting regarding transportation.

- All drivers transporting Scouts (not their own child) must be age 21 years or older and have a valid driver's license that has not been suspended or revoked for any reason.

- All Troop bus drivers must be age 21 years or older and have a commercial driver's license (CDL).
- Scouts are expected to ride on the Troop bus to and from outings unless alternative arrangements have been reviewed and approved by the Scoutmaster and Troop Committee. This ALSO applies to scouts whose parents are registered leaders.
- A Scout may drive himself **ONLY** to and from Troop meetings and **LOCAL** events under the following conditions:
    1. Has six months' driving experience as a licensed driver (time on a learner's permit or equivalent is not to be counted), and
    2. Has no record of accidents or moving violations, and
    3. Parental permission is granted to the Scoutmaster and approved by the Troop Committee.
    4. And turns over his keys to the SM upon arrival.