



Troop 116

Sherwood, Oregon

TROOP 116 CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE POLICY

VERSION 1.0

INTRODUCTION

A goal of the Boy Scouts of America is to help boys develop into honorable men. Every Scouting activity moves boys toward this goal using three basic aims: character development, citizenship training, and mental and physical fitness (ref. 2, 3). The Scouting program is designed to use a variety of activities to teach and reinforce these aims (ref. 2, 3).

Troop 116 routinely engages in activities, which incorporate some inherent risk to the participants. Troop 116 follows all BSA rules and policies in the Guide to Safe Scouting. Any discipline issues within the troop can significantly increase the risk to the participants in any given activity (ref. 1).

Therefore, the purpose of this Troop 116 Conduct & Discipline Policy is to clarify expectations of conduct and subsequent consequences at the troop level. Each Scout, parent, and/or adult affirms acceptance of this policy and its procedures when participating in a troop function. This policy is not intended to explain all the rules of the troop; it is intended to define the expectations of conduct and behavior and consequences for violations.

A printed copy of this document is presented to each family in the troop and is posted on the troop's website, www.sherwood116.com. Specific questions regarding the content of this policy should be directed to the Troop Committee Chair.

IDEALS & EXPECTATIONS

Troop 116 subscribes to the Scout Law and Scout Oath as the principle ideals for conduct and behavior (ref. 4). For convenient reference, the Scout Law and Oath are included in this document as Appendix A and B, respectively. Troop 116 expects all Scouts and adults will conduct themselves in a manner, which supports these ideals.

Scout Law, as excerpted from page 47-54, Boy Scout Handbook, 11th Edition, (#33105), copyright 1998 by BSA, ISBN 0-8395-3105-2:

A Scout is **Trustworthy**.

A Scout tells the truth. He is honest, and he keeps his promises. People can depend on him.

A Scout is **Loyal**.

A Scout is true to his family, friends, Scout leaders, school, and nation.

A Scout is **Helpful**.

A Scout cares about other people. He willingly volunteers to help others without expecting payment or reward.

A Scout is **Friendly**.

A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He offers his friendship to people of all races and nations, and respects them even if their beliefs and customs are different from his own.

A Scout is **Courteous**.

A Scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows that using good manners makes it easier for people to get along.

A Scout is **Kind**.

A Scout knows there is strength in being gentle. He treats others, as he wants to be treated. Without good reason, he does not harm or kill any living thing.

A Scout is **Obedient**.

A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobeying them.

A Scout is **Cheerful**.

A Scout looks for the bright side of life. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.

A Scout is **Thrifty**.

A Scout works to pay his own way and to help others. He saves for the future. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses time and property.

A Scout is **Brave**.

A Scout can face danger although he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at him or threaten him.

A Scout is **Clean**.

A Scout keeps his body and mind fit and clean. He chooses the company of those who live by high standards. He helps keep his home and community clean.

A Scout is **Reverent**.

A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

Scout Oath, as excerpted from page 45-46, Boy Scout Handbook, 11th ed, (#33105), copyright 1998 by BSA, ISBN 0-8395-3105-2:

On my honor . . .

By giving your word, you are promising to be guided by the ideals of the Scout Oath.

. . . I will do my best . . .

Try hard to live up to the points of the Scout Oath. Measure your achievements against your own high standards and don't be influenced by peer pressure or what other people do.

. . . to do my duty to God . . .

Your family and religious leaders teach you about God and the ways you can serve. You do your duty to God by following the wisdom of those teachings every day and by respecting and defending the rights of others to practice their own beliefs.

. . . and my country . . .

Help keep the United States a strong and fair nation by learning about our system of government and your responsibilities as a citizen and future voter.

America is made up of countless families and communities. When you work to improve your community and your home, you are serving your country. Natural resources are another important part of America's heritage worthy of your efforts to understand, protect, and use wisely. What you do can make a real difference.

. . . and to obey the Scout Law; . . .

The twelve points of the Scout Law are guidelines that can lead you toward wise choices. When you obey the Scout Law, other people will respect you for the way you live, and you will respect yourself.

. . . To help other people at all times; . . .

There are many people who need you. Your cheerful smile and helping hand will ease the burden of many who need assistance. By helping out whenever possible, you are doing your part to make this a better world.

. . . To keep myself physically strong, . . .

Take care of your body so that it will serve you well for an entire lifetime. That means eating nutritious foods, getting enough sleep, and exercising regularly to build strength and endurance. It also means avoiding harmful drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and anything else that can harm your health.

. . . mentally awake, . . .

Develop your mind both in the classroom and outside of school. Be curious about everything around you, and work hard to make the most of your abilities. With an inquiring attitude and the willingness to ask questions, you can learn much about the exciting world around you and your role in it.

. . . and morally straight.

To be a person of strong character, your relationships with others should be honest and open. You should respect and defend the rights of all people. Be clean in your speech and actions, and remain faithful in your religious beliefs. The values you practice as a Scout will help you shape a life of virtue and self-reliance.

Troop 116 adopts these ideals as the governing principals of Scouting. In general, all actions of a Scout or adult of Troop 116 can be described by one of the points of the Scout Law. If a Scout is unsure of a potential action, he should consider each point of the Scout Law and decide which point fits that action. If none of the points describe the action he is considering, that action should probably not occur.

RESPONSIBILITY & CHAIN OF COMMAND

The enforcement of discipline is the responsibility of four primary groups within the troop, listed from least to most responsibility:

- Scouts
- Youth Leadership
- Scoutmaster / Assistant Scoutmaster team
- Troop Committee and other participating adults

Troop 116 follows BSA practices and utilizes the Patrol Method to promote active leadership development of youth. It is important to recognize the chain of command present in the Patrol Method.

SCOUTS have the first and foremost responsibility to individually follow and uphold the Scout Oath and Law. Each Scout is expected to:

- Follow and practice the Scout Oath and Law, serving as an example to their fellow Scouts.
- Tell fellow Scouts when they are not following the Scout Oath and Law.
- Report poor conduct to their Patrol Leader or Senior Patrol Leader.
- Immediately report safety issues to the Scoutmaster, an Assistant Scoutmaster, or other adult.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP consists of the elected and appointed Scouts holding the positions of Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, and Assistant Patrol Leader. These leaders are expected to:

- Lead by example, following the Scout Oath and Law at all times.
- Organize patrols and provide leadership for all meetings and outings.
- Regularly present expectations for safety, behavior, and conduct with their Scouts.
- Provide coaching and/or verbal warnings to Scouts who display poor conduct or behavior.
- Report situations to the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster if coaching and/or verbal warnings do not immediately correct the poor conduct or behavior.
- Immediately halt activities and report any issue of safety to the Scoutmaster, an Assistant Scoutmaster, or other adult.

The **SCOUTMASTER / ASSISTANT-SCOUTMASTER TEAM** is ultimately responsible for all program activities, safety, and required discipline (ref. 2, 3). The Scoutmaster, a designated Assistant Scoutmaster, or other designated responsible registered adult leader will be in charge of each activity. During outings, that individual will have final decision-making authority for matters of safety and discipline and shall be identified as "tour leader" on the associated trip permit.

The Scoutmaster (or designated Assistant Scoutmaster in-charge) is expected to:

- Lead by example, following the Scout Oath and Law at all times.

- Enforce safety and discipline as outlined in the Guide to Safe Scouting and this policy.
- Regularly present expectations for safety, behavior, and conduct with Scouts and youth leadership.
- Train and guide youth leadership.
- Direct ASM's and other participating adults as required to ensure the methods of Scouting are followed at all times.

Participating Assistant Scoutmasters are expected to:

- Lead by example, following the Scout Oath and Law at all times.
- Enforce safety and discipline as outlined in the Guide to Safe Scouting and this policy.
- Regularly present expectations for safety, behavior, and conduct with Scouts and youth leadership.
- Train and guide Scouts and youth leadership as required
- Ensure the methods of Scouting are followed at all times.

The **TROOP COMMITTEE** and participating adults have a vital support role within the troop (ref. 3). While these adults are not actively in charge of the program or activities, they provide resources, time, and skills that are valuable to the program and aid in providing guidance to Scouts and enforcing safety. These adults are expected to:

- Lead by example, following the Scout Oath and Law at all times.
- Enforce safety and discipline as outlined in the Guide to Safe Scouting and this policy. (Preferably, participating adults will alert the Scoutmaster or designated leader in charge of an activity before taking action. If circumstances warrant, any adult may intervene for the purposes of safety.)
- Provide coaching and guidance to Scouts and youth leadership at the request of the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters.
- Support the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters in correcting behavioral or conduct problems that affect the troop.
- Convene Boards of Review for purposes of determining consequences for violations of safety and conduct. Work with the Scoutmaster to ensure that these consequences are appropriate.

CONSEQUENCES

Misconduct and actions that violate the Scout Oath and Law shall be categorized as follows:

Note: Examples are not all-inclusive of possible violations.

Category 1 - Serious violations which result in personal physical injury to others or self (may include violations in which serious injury was narrowly avoided) Serious violations which do not result in personal physical injury to others (includes violations in which emotional harm or distress is inflicted on others)

- Disregard of safety rules or instructions
- Intentional behavior resulting in personal injury or a "near miss"
- Reckless behavior resulting in personal injury or a "near miss"
- Illegal use of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs
- Abuse of prescription medications or other legally available substances
- Theft
- Humiliating or antagonizing others
- Intentional or reckless behavior resulting in damage to personal property

Violation - Serious violations which result in personal physical injury to others or self will result in:

- Discussion between the Scout and the adult leader in charge of the event
- Notification of the violation to the Scout's parents
- Notification of the violation to the proper authorities if required
- If deemed necessary to ensure continued safety of others or himself, removal of the Scout from the activity at the expense and arrangement of the Scout's parents.
- The Scout shall make restitution to those injured for any uninsured medical expenses and/or property damage.
- The Scout shall attend a Board of Review held by the Troop Committee to discuss the violation. The Troop Committee in cooperation with the Scoutmaster has an option to assign additional consequences as deemed appropriate. These consequences may include dismissal from the troop for a serious first offense or for subsequent violations.

Category 2 - Violations in which lasting harm is not done to others but disrupts the ability of youth or adult leadership to maintain discipline during an activity

- Disrespect of youth or adult leaders and/or insubordination
- Disrespect of other participating youth or adults
- Blatant disregard of troop rules and policies
- Swearing, cussing, or other use of inappropriate language
- Inappropriate gestures or motions
- Rude and crude behavior deemed offensive by the majority of witnessing Scouts or adults
- Minor, singular disruption of troop activities

Violation - Non-serious violations in which lasting harm is not done to others will result in:

- First offense - Discussion between the Scout and the adult leader in charge of the event; Warning that subsequent violations will incur additional consequences
- Second offense - Notification of the violation to the Scout's parents
- Third offense - The Scout shall attend a Board of Review held by the Troop Committee to discuss the violation. The Troop Committee in cooperation with the Scoutmaster will assign additional consequences as deemed appropriate.

ENFORCEMENT

Category 1 violations will not be tolerated within the troop and will be dealt with as soon as possible to ensure the safety and well-being of all involved. Category 2 violations will be dealt with when these violations interfere with the leadership's ability to maintain order within the troop.

APPEAL PROCESS

Any Scout who feels he has been unjustly sanctioned may appeal to the Troop Committee Chair and request a review of disciplinary actions. The Troop Committee Chair will investigate and convene a Board of Review if deemed appropriate. Further appeal can be brought to the Charter Organization Representative.

REFERENCES

These references were utilized in creating this document:

- (1) - Guide to Safe Scouting
- (2) - Scoutmaster Handbook
- (3) - Troop Committee Guidebook
- (4) - Boy Scout Handbook
- (5) - Scouting for Boys