

Troop 997 Code of Conduct

The Scout Oath and Law are to be followed at all times.

All Scouts and adults are expected to show proper respect toward all adults & fellow Scouts.

Behavior that shows disrespect and will not be tolerated includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Failure to follow reasonable directives of a youth or adult leader
- b. Unnecessary or inappropriate physical roughness or contact
- c. Threatening or intimidating another person by word or action
- d. Foul language that offends or degrades, as well as negative and derogatory banter, including language that is discriminatory with respect to race, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation
- e. Failure to take proper care of Troop or personal equipment put in your trust
- f. Causing damage to the environment
- g. Unfair treatment of any Scout or adult regarding discipline or any activity
- h. Leaving a Scouting activity without permission, straying from the group, or failure to use the Buddy System while in the field

Other Troop policies regarding conduct and safety:

- a. Smoking or use of tobacco products by minors or adults is not permitted on any Troop activity, including camping trips.
- b. Possession or use of fireworks is prohibited.
- c. No firearms are permitted on any Troop activity by any Scout or guest. If any firearms are required on any Troop activity, they will be under the strict control of the Scoutmaster Corps.
- d. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances (except medication of which the adult leadership has been made aware) by minors or by adults at any Scouting activity is strictly prohibited.
- e. Scouts are not to bring any radios, portable video games, mp3 players or other electronic equipment on any Troop activity unless otherwise directed. Troop 997 will bear no responsibility for lost or damaged items.
- f. Scouts are not to build any fires until they earn the "Firem'n Chit" and are not to build unauthorized fires at any time.
- g. Sheath knives, switch blades or knives with blades over four inches in length are not to be in the possession of any Scout or adult at any Troop activity.
- h. Scouts will not be permitted to use any knife, axe or saw until they earn the "Totin' Chip." One corner of a Scout's Totin' Chip will be removed for each safety infraction involving a knife, saw or axe. If he loses all four corners, he will lose his Totin' Chip and will no longer be allowed to use a knife, saw or axe until the Chip is re-earned.
- i. No saws or axes are to be used outside an axe yard.
- j. Axes are to be used with the "Contact Method" only.
- k. Scouts will not be allowed to swim at any Troop activity unless there are at least two persons assigned as lifeguards, and other restrictions as directed in "Safe Swim Defense."
- l. All swimmers will use the buddy system.
- m. When possible, no Scout of a rank less than Star will be permitted to tent alone.

Troop 997 Discipline Procedure

The approach to discipline in Scouting is simple and the doors of Scouting are always open to those who strive to follow the ideals of Scouting.

Enforcing Discipline

1. Discipline in Patrols will be handled by the Patrol Leaders. Patrol Leaders have the authority to ask any patrol member to stop inappropriate behavior and/or leave a patrol meeting and report to the Senior Patrol Leader. An adult leader must be notified of actions taken.
2. When the Patrol Leader requires additional support in halting inappropriate behavior, he must obtain help from the SPL. The SPL has the authority to ask a Scout to leave the meeting/activity area and report to the Scoutmaster (or an Assistant Scoutmaster when necessary).
3. When the Senior Patrol Leader requires additional support, he must obtain the help of the Scoutmaster (or an Assistant Scoutmaster when necessary).
4. When the Scoutmaster determines that a Scout requires discipline, the following actions are taken:
 - I. First Level – Conference with the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster.
 - II. Second Level – Conference with the Scoutmaster and a phone call to parents explaining the problem and stating that further complaints may result in a suspension for a period of time depending on the severity of the offense. A written explanation of the offense will also be prepared to back up the phone call. One copy will be given to the parents, another to the Troop Committee Chair in case further action is necessary. This may be in the form of emails. Parents may be requested to attend meetings to help supervise their Scout. The Scout may be assigned to appear before a board of Committee members as a lesser disciplinary action prior to suspension from troop activities.
 - III. Third Level – Conference with the Scoutmaster, Committee Chair, and parents. Based on the Scoutmaster's recommendation, the Scout may be suspended from all Troop activities for a period of time as established by the Scoutmaster. This conference may also result in immediate escalation to the next level.
 - IV. Fourth Level – The issue is referred to the full Troop Committee by the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair with a recommendation of action and the circumstances for the referral.

The Troop Committee may proceed immediately with any level of discipline without conducting previous lower levels of discipline if the Committee deems the severity of the circumstances warrant such action.

5. The above steps are not meant to discourage either the Patrol Leader or the Senior Patrol Leader from seeking advice from the Scoutmaster or any adult leader when they are having leadership challenges, but are intended to state discipline options in advance.
6. In extreme cases, a Scout may be recommended for dismissal from the Troop. This action means that only by agreement from the Troop Committee will the Scout be permitted to return to the Troop. Dismissal will only be carried out by the Troop Committee. In the case of a dismissal, a letter will be sent to the Scout's parents outlining the reasons for the dismissal and the alternatives for returning to the Troop.
7. If a Scout is disruptive during any event (meeting, camping trip, day trip, etc.), and it is determined by the adult leader of the event that a Scout's continued presence will be excessively disruptive, the parents of the Scout will be called (any time of day or night) to come and get the Scout.

Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior

These may include but are not limited to:

- a. Verbal apology to a Scout, a leader, a Patrol or the Troop
- b. Written apology
- c. Repair or replace anything damaged
- d. Required parent attendance at meetings, activities or trips
- e. Loss of privileges or other activities (i.e. the ability to "sign out" of camp to go fishing)
- f. Suspension from meetings, activities or trips for a specified period of time
- g. Suspension of leadership position for a specified period of time
- h. Scoutmaster may determine that the behavior is not consistent with Scout Spirit and may not sign off on that advancement requirement for a specified period of time

At no time may consequences for behavior include corporal punishment, withholding of food, or demand of physical activity (i.e. laps or push-ups).

Grievance Procedure

If a Scout feels he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline or treated unfairly, he may seek help from the Senior Patrol Leader. A Scout who feels he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline or treated unfairly by the SPL may seek help from the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster. A Scout who feels he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline or treated unfairly by the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster may seek help from a member of the Troop Committee. The Troop Committee will be the final arbiter of the issue and will determine what course of action is appropriate.

Troop 997 Code of Conduct and Discipline Procedure

We have read, understand and agree to the Troop 997 Code of Conduct and Discipline Procedure.

Scout

Signature _____

Scout Printed

Name _____

Parent/Guardian

Signature(s) _____

Parent/Guardian

Printed Name(s) _____

Date _____

Detach and return this signature section to the Membership Chair.