



# BSA Troop 51 Sharpsburg, Maryland

## Conduct and Discipline Policy

August 19, 2008

### The Scout Oath:

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

### The Scout Law:

*A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.*

### **Summary of Conduct Rules:**

1. The Scout Oath and the Scout Law will be a Scout's guide at all times.
2. Failure to follow reasonable directives from an adult or junior leader is unacceptable.
3. Unruly, loud, disrespectful or disobedient behavior will not be tolerated.
4. When the sign goes up, everyone is quiet.
5. No swearing, offensive or use of unfit language.
6. No fires of any kind are permitted inside tents.
7. Fire safety rules will be enforced at all times. No Scout will tend or participate in fire-building activities unless they have earned their "Firem'n Chit" card.
8. No Scout will carry or use a knife until he has had the proper training and has earned a "Tot'n Chit" card.
9. Sheath knives and knives with blades of more than four (4) inches will not be carried by boys or adults.
10. Lights out will be respected.
11. Respect other people's property. No borrowing of any person's or Troop's equipment or property without prior consent.
12. No alcohol or any other controlled substances are allowed by Scouts or adults (except medication of which the adult leadership is aware).
13. No boy member will have possession of or use any tobacco products.
14. Tape/CD players, portable TV's, radios, portable games, cell phones, etc. are not allowed during Troop activities. Personal CD players, radios, and games, with headphones, may be allowed during long travels to and from an event, but requires prior driver and Scoutmaster approval. Scoutmaster approval is needed for use during any other time.
15. Firearms, firecrackers, fireworks, ammunition, black powder, sling shots, bows and arrows, paint ball guns or any other weapons are prohibited. Exceptions will be made only for Troop approved archers and rifle ranges.
16. No food, candy or soft drinks are allowed in tents.
17. Horseplay or inappropriate physical roughness will not be tolerated. Never restrain another Scout. No shoving, punching, kicking or stick fighting is allowed.
18. No throwing of rocks or other objects. Throwing rocks is unacceptable.
19. Respect other people's feelings. Threatening or intimidating another person by word or action is not allowed. No hazing, 'put-downs', ridiculing or name-calling. Use nicknames only if that Scout does not object.
20. No Scout shall leave an activity and/or designated area without the Scoutmaster's or an Assistant Scoutmaster's express permission to do so.

21. Never venture off alone. The 'buddy system' will be used at all times to provide support and safety.
22. The intentional destruction of or damage to natural or man-made areas, as well as to personal or troop property is forbidden.
23. Lying. This type of behavior is inconsistent with the goals and ideals of Scouting and will not be tolerated.
24. No fighting allowed. Fistfights, hurtful comments, jokes at other people's expense, etc., have no place in Scouting.
25. No Scout shall enter another Scout's tent without permission.
26. The Scoutmaster (with council from his Assistant Scoutmasters) reserves the right to determine other forms of unacceptable behavior as they occur.

**Summary of Discipline Policy:**

1. Scouts who do not adhere to the above rules will be addressed by the PLC for their first offense. The PLC will assess such restrictions or limits to activities and probation period (not to exceed 30 days) as are reasonable with respect to the offense, with approval of both the Scoutmaster and the Troop Committee Chairman. Written notice will be given to parents of the offense and disciplinary action taken by the PLC.
2. Scouts who misbehave either while performing the terms of their limitations or restrictions assessed by the PLC, or for a second time within the set probation period, will be counseled by the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairperson, with parental inclusion, who will assess more severe penalties, restrictions, or limitations as warranted by the second offense.

All limitations, restrictions, penalties, and other disciplinary action taken will be limited in nature, but designed to assist the Scout in recognizing the wrongdoing and taking corrective action to address the deficiency. No action will be taken which would ridicule, cause physical injury, or infringe upon personal privacy in correcting a Scout's misbehavior. Restrictions and limitations will be set for specific periods of time, aimed at next major events, campouts, or other activities.

A serious offense is anything risking injury or damage to someone or something. Examples of serious offenses include: acts of violence with intent to injure including assault; possession of alcoholic spirits or illegal drugs; possession of a weapon not approved by the Scoutmaster; theft; arson; possession of tobacco products by anyone under 18 years of age; immoral exposure or touching; hazing; and vandalism. A serious offense is grounds for immediate action by the Scoutmaster, which can include sending a Scout home from a troop activity. ***Parents must be prepared to pick their son up at any time during a troop meeting, campout, or other activity.*** The case will then be considered by the Troop Committee, with recommendations from the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters. Possible actions by the Troop Committee include temporary suspension from troop activities or dismissal from the Troop.

Activities or behavior not specifically covered here, which violates regulations, attempts to circumvent rules, poses hazards, or offends the common sense and decency of others will be dealt with in an equal manner as offenses listed.

**We, \_\_\_\_\_ [scout] and \_\_\_\_\_ [parent] have read, understand, and agree to follow the rules established above and recognize that a violation of any of those rules will result in disciplinary action, as set forth above, by the troop.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scout's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/guardian's signature