

Troop 142 Code of Conduct

Section 1:

Troop 142 strives to teach Scouts to live by the principles exemplified in the Scout Oath and Law. Scouting should be fun and challenging while providing a safe and supportive environment in which Scouts can learn and grow without unnecessary roughness, physical or verbal intimidation, foul or offensive language or disrespectful behavior. Physical discipline is not permitted by youths or adults under any circumstances. Any youth or adult leader involved in such discipline shall be immediately suspended until the issue is brought to the attention of the Troop Executive Committee. For serious offenses, the troop may use probation, suspension, and expulsion.

Section 2:

Examples of unacceptable behavior include:

- Failure to follow reasonable directives from an adult or junior leader
- Unnecessary or inappropriate physical roughness
- Threatening, hazing, or harassing another person by word or action
- Stealing from another Scout;
- Foul language, as well as negative or derogatory banter
- Offensive behavior or language regarding race, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation
- Behavior that displays disrespect for other persons, personal property or the environment
- Smoking
- Possession or use of fireworks
- Unauthorized use or possession of firearms or other

weapons

- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances (except medication of which the adult leadership is aware).
- Use or possession of axes, hatchets or sheath knives or any knife except a folding pocket knife (maximum blade length 3") without permission of the Scoutmaster or other adult leader.
- illegal conduct, in or out of Scouting; misbehavior or refusal to abide by troop policies which is seriously detrimental to the welfare of the troop; willful disregard of the Scout Law or Scout Promise, especially by a scout or an adult in a position of trust.
- The troop discourages but does not ban the consumption of caffeine-containing beverages (coffee, tea, caffeinated pop) by Scouts. If necessary, the adult leaders may limit consumption by Scouts who drink excessive amounts, or have medications that might cause an unfavorable interaction.

Section 3:

When discipline problems occur that need more than a friendly reminder from a Scout's peers or supervising adults, the following steps are taken:

- A Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, or Troop Guide formally asks the Scout to stop the inappropriate behavior. The youth leader makes sure the Scout understands the nature of the offense, discusses appropriate behaviors, and, with the Scout, seeks ways to correct damage that resulted from the Scouts action.

- A Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or other designated adult asks the Scout to stop the inappropriate behavior. The adult makes sure the Scout understands the nature of the offense, discusses appropriate behaviors, and, with the Scout, seeks ways to correct damage that resulted from the Scouts action.

- If the problem persists an official warning is issued to the Scout and reported to the Scoutmaster, who maintains a log of such incidents.

- If the Scout continues to misbehave, the Scout's parent(s) or guardian(s) are contacted. The Scoutmaster, at least one Assistant Scoutmaster, and the Scout's parent/guardian(s) should devise a plan to resolve the problem and for the Scout to compensate for his inappropriate behavior. The Scoutmaster informs the Troop Committee Chair.

If the problem continues to persist, the Scoutmaster should call a conference attended by the Scoutmaster and at least one Assistant Scoutmaster, the Troop Committee Chair, the offending Scout and the Scout's parent(s) or guardian(s). The problem(s) is/are discussed, positive goals are formulated and a plan is devised to resolve the situation. The Scoutmaster and at least one Assistant Scoutmaster may temporarily suspend the Scout from troop meetings and activities until such a conference occurs. Junior leaders are not permitted to expel other Scouts from troop meetings or events.

- If inappropriate behavior continues, or there is disagreement among the parties involved, the matter is

taken to the Troop Committee. The Committee listens to all interested parties, gathers information and decides the matter. Possible resolutions include, but are not restricted to: negotiating an agreement with the Scout and his parent(s) or guardian(s) about acceptable behavior, requiring that a parent or guardian attend all scouting activities in which the Scout participates, or expelling the Scout from the troop.

Fortunately, serious problems rarely arise due to the good character of our Scouts. When there are problems, cooperation among Scouts, Scoutmasters and parents often turn problems into opportunities for growth and character development.

Section 4:

Discipline needs to be positive rather than negative whenever possible, and it must be applied using common sense and fairness. Where it is appropriate, the best disciplinary approach is to warn the scout and review the elements of the Scout Law that applies to the situation.

Where that fails, the remedial actions are:

- Probation - a period of evaluation both by the troop and by the Scout under probation to determine fitness or desire to remain in the troop. A Scout under probation may not normally hold any troop leadership position, and is generally barred from certain "special" troop activities, at the Scoutmaster's discretion.

- Suspension - the temporary loss of all membership privileges in the troop, typically for 3 or 6 months. A Scout is not eligible for any advancement during the suspension period. A suspended Scout may be readmitted at the

conclusion of the suspension period only after he has submitted a letter to the troop committee, signed by himself and his parents, stating his pledge to meet all troop standards fully.

Section 5:

Expulsion - the permanent loss of all membership privileges in the troop. The Scoutmaster and troop committee, acting in concert, may permanently expel any member for any of the following:

- No Scout and no adult may possess or consume alcoholic beverages at any time during any Scouting activity. Violators will be dismissed from the activity and suspended from the troop until they appear at a troop committee meeting (with a parent, if a Scout). The committee will determine any further actions, including the possibility of permanent expulsion from the troop.

- Use of tobacco products is not consistent with the Scout Law and Promise. No Scout may possess or use tobacco products at any time on any Scouting activity, regardless of parental consent. Adults who smoke/chew must do so completely away from the Scouts. Violators will be dismissed from the activity and suspended from the troop until they appear at a troop committee meeting (with a parent, if a Scout). The committee will determine any further actions, including the possibility of permanent expulsion from the troop. [Because of the increase in tobacco use by teenagers, and its long-term potential for serious harm, we have chosen to take a strict position against its use, consistent with BSA policies.]

- Troop 142 bans the possession or use of illegal drugs (marijuana, etc), other abusable substances (glue, prescription drugs, etc, except when used for their intended purpose), and drug paraphernalia (roach clips, pipes, etc). Prescription medication will be managed by the Troop medical advisor or duly appointed adult. Adult violators (age 18 & up) will be turned over to the police. Police involvement for Scout violators will be at the discretion of the adult leader in charge based on individual circumstances. All violators will be dismissed from the activity and suspended from the troop until they appear at a troop committee meeting (with a parent, if a Scout). The committee will determine any further actions, including the possibility of permanent expulsion from the troop.

Section 6:

Scouting is based on trust, and we prefer to trust our Scouts. Unfortunately, a very few dishonest boys have abused this trust to bring contraband or to steal from other Scouts. It is sad that the honest majority must pay the price for the unethical few. In view of our obligation to protect our Scouts from harmful influences, and recognizing the difficulty of learning about such influences in a timely manner, we must reluctantly reserve the right to ask a Scout to show the contents of his pockets, pack, or tent, or to call in the police to assist. We especially want those few who may be lured by the temptations of dishonor to know that they may be checked at any time. At the same time, we want to maintain an environment based on trust where we are not tempted to search anyone. Only the Scoutmaster, or another adult leader in charge, is empowered to conduct a search of a Scout, his pack, or his tent, upon reasonable

suspicion. A minimum of two adults and the Scout must be present during any search. The adult leader in charge has the responsibility to determine if police involvement is required. The personal safety of all parties will be paramount at all times.