

**Troop 90
Boy Scouts of America
San Antonio, Texas**

Troop 90 Scout Behavior Rules and Procedures

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Prepared by Subcommittee members:

**Hugh Rote
Harold Singleton
Grant Huguenin**

Youth Member Behavior Guidelines

The Boy Scouts of America is a values-based youth development organization that helps young people learn positive attributes of character, citizenship, and personal fitness. The BSA has the expectation that all participants in the Scouting program will relate to each other in accord with the principles embodied in the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

One of the developmental tasks of childhood is to learn appropriate behavior. Children are not born with an innate sense of propriety and they need guidance and direction. The example set by positive adult role models is a powerful tool for shaping behavior and a tool that is stressed in Scouting.

Misbehavior by a single youth member in a Scouting unit may constitute a threat to the safety of the individual who misbehaves as well as to the safety of other unit members. Such misbehavior constitutes an unreasonable burden on a Scout unit and cannot be ignored.

Member Responsibilities

All members of the Boy Scouts of America are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Physical violence, hazing, bullying, theft, verbal insults, and drugs and alcohol have no place in the Scouting program and may result in the revocation of a Scout's membership in the unit.

If confronted by threats of violence or other forms of bullying from other youth members, Scouts should seek help from their unit leaders or parents.

Unit Responsibilities

Adult leaders of scouting units are responsible for monitoring the behavior of youth members and interceding when necessary. Parents of youth members who misbehave should be informed and asked for assistance.

The BSA does not permit the use of corporal punishment by unit leaders when disciplining youth members.

The unit committee should review repetitive or serious incidents of misbehavior in consultation with the parents of the child to determine a course of corrective action including possible revocation of the youth's membership in the unit.

If problem behavior persists, units may revoke a Scout's membership in that unit. When a unit revokes a Scout's membership, it should promptly notify the council of the action.

The unit should inform the Scout executive of any violations of the BSA's Youth Protection policies.

Source: Youth Protection & Adult Leadership

at: <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/GSS/gss01.aspx#c>

Procedures

Our goal is to set behavioral boundaries for the Scouts and guidelines for dealing with issues that may arise on our activities. We, as leaders and parents in Troop 90, owe it to the Scouts to do everything we can to help them develop good character, and we are short-changing our kids if we ignore unacceptable behavior. It is for this reason we have developed the policies within this document. These procedures will apply at any scouting event or activity, including travel to and from the event.

There is no way we can anticipate every possible occurrence, but the categories below should account for a majority. When an incident occurs, the adult who witnesses the occurrence should have a meeting with at least two other adults that are in attendance at the activity (one of which being the Scoutmaster if available). Based on the recommendations within this document, appropriate action(s) should be taken to address the situation.

Category 1 – Serious violations which result in personal physical injury to others or self (may include violations in which serious injury was narrowly avoided). Also serious violations which do not result in personal physical injury to others

- Continuous 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
- Intentional or reckless behavior resulting in damage to personal property.
- Inappropriate adult or child on child sexual behavior.
- Threats of physical violence (verbal/non-verbal)

Category 1 Consequences:

- Discussion between the Scout and the adult leader in charge of the event.
- Notification of the violation to the Scout’s parent.
- 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.
- At the discretion of the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair the Scout shall attend a Disciplinary Board of Review sanctioned by the Troop Committee to discuss the violation. The Disciplinary Board of Review process is outlined in the section titled ‘Disciplinary Board of Review Process / Procedure’.
- The Disciplinary Board of Review has an option to assign additional consequences as deemed appropriate. These consequences may include a Recommendation of 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.

- Disregard of safety rules or instructions.
- Humiliating or antagonizing others.
- Disrespect of youth or adult leaders and/or insubordination (including hazing and bullying).
- 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.
- Possessing, viewing or sharing any material or media that is pornographic in nature

Category 2 Consequences:

- **First offense** – Discussion between the Scout and the adult leader in charge of the event. A warning will be given that subsequent violations will incur additional consequences. An apology will be made by the offending Scout to all involved parties.
- **Second offense** – Discussion between the Scout and the adult leader in charge of the event. Notification of the violation to the Scout's parent. An apology will be made by the offending Scout to the entire troop. The Scoutmaster may impose a 30 day suspension from Troop activities for the offending Scout at Scoutmaster Discretion.
- **Third offense** – The Scout and parents will attend a Disciplinary Board of Review sanctioned by the Troop Committee to discuss the violations. The Disciplinary Board of Review process is outlined in the section titled 'Disciplinary Board of Review Process / Procedure'.
- Options available to the committee include, but are not limited to:
 - **Suspension from scout activities for a time period determined by the Board.**
 - **A Recommendation of Suspension from the troop.**
 - **Any combination as deemed appropriate by the committee.**

Disciplinary Board of Review Process / Procedure:

- The members of the Disciplinary Board of Review will consist of not less than three nor more than five registered Committee Members.
- The members of the Board will be designated by the Committee Chairman.
- The Committee Chairman or his designee will chair the board.
- The Board will respect the privacy of the Scout and the board will meet in private
- The Scout's Parents or Guardians are encouraged to attend.
- The Scoutmaster or his designee will appear before the Board to formally inform the Board of the incident or incidents that precipitated the need for the

Disciplinary Board of Review. At this time the Scoutmaster or his designee may also suggest appropriate consequences for the incident(s) and or bring any information that the Scoutmaster believes the Board should consider.

- The Scout will be encouraged to respond and explain his actions and / or present mitigating circumstances for the Board to consider.
- The Scout's Parents or Guardians may also respond on behalf of the Scout to present any circumstance or issues they believe the Board should consider.
- After hearing the responses from the Scout and / or his Parents or Guardians, the Board at its discretion may decide that it needs more information before setting consequences. At that time it may ask other Scouts / Scouters to appear before the Board at a time convenient for all. This will be done as discreetly as possible.
- Once the Board is satisfied with the information it has collected, the board will deliberate diligently in a private manner to determine consequences for actions of the Scout.
- A simple majority of the Board members is required to set consequences.
- The Board will notify the Scout and his Parents or Guardians of any consequences imposed. It is preferred that the Board performs this notification face to face with the Scout and his Parents or Guardians. If this is not possible in a timely manner the Scout and his Parents or Guardians may be notified in a letter.
- If the Consequences the Board chooses to impose includes a Recommendation of Dismissal or a Recommendation to Suspend, the Board will immediately notify the Troop Committee Chairman of the recommended action.
- The Troop Committee Chairman will call a meeting to approve or reject the Recommendation of Dismissal or the Recommendation of Suspension. This meeting will be held in a timely manner. The voting members of this meeting will be the Scoutmaster, the Charter Organization Representative, and the Troop Committee Chairman. In addition to the voting members the Chairman of the Disciplinary Board of Review will also attend this meeting. In order to approve a Recommendation of Dismissal or a Recommendation of Suspension and dismiss or suspend a Scout, the voting members must reach a consensus.
- The Board will meet within 2 weeks if not sooner of the incident.
- The decision of the Board shall be confidential.
- As guidelines, this document can not cover all possible events or contingencies and therefore we will allow the Scoutmaster discretion in applying these guidelines and reaching a decision that is in the best interest of the scouts and the Troop as a whole.

Special Considerations:

- The members of the Disciplinary Board of Review may not be related or live in the same household of the Scout.

- In the event that the Scout is related or lives in the same household of the Scoutmaster, the Troop Committee Chairman and the Charter Organization Representative will come to a consensus in designating an Assistant Scoutmaster to perform the duties of the Scoutmaster in regards to the duties required by the “Disciplinary Board of Review Process / Procedure” section of this document.
- In the Event that the Scout is related or lives in the same household as the Troop Committee Chairman, the Scoutmaster and the Charter Organization Representative will come to a consensus in designating a registered Troop Committee Member to perform the duties of the Troop Committee Chairman in regards to the duties required by the “Disciplinary Board of Review Process / Procedure” section of this document.

Guiding Principals

Scouting is a wonderful opportunity for young boys to grow into leaders of character and principle. It is hoped that the disciplinary procedures called for in this document will be used for the benefit of the Scouts and the Scouting program. As stated in the preamble of this document, “Adult leaders of scouting units are responsible for monitoring the behavior of youth members and interceding when necessary”. Each of the Scouts are unique individuals, all on the journey of growing into the adults they will become. We as adult leaders have the responsibility to do our best in interceding early, and positively to avert inappropriate behavior. This should be handled in an appropriate manner which is respectful to all involved yet when necessary holding the scout accountable for his actions. Scouting demands a high standard of behavior, the twelve points of the Scout Law can be learned in a few minutes but take a lifetime to master. As adult leaders we should also monitor our own behavior, interceding when necessary, to insure that our behavior is the example that we want the Scouts to emulate.

Signature by Parent(s) and Scout is required for membership in the Troop.
This page to be filed with Troop.

Parent or
Guardian Name Printed: _____

Parent or
Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Scout Name Printed: _____

Scout Signature: _____ Date: _____