

# Troop 1034 Conduct and Discipline Policy

## Guide to Safe Scouting

Troop 1034 follows all BSA rules and policies in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, available online at <http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS/toc.aspx>. This *Troop 1034 Conduct and Discipline Policy* is designed to further clarify conduct and discipline at the troop level.

## Scout Conduct

Good behavior is essential to any program and will be strongly supported by Troop 1034's youth leaders (Scouts) and adult leaders (Scouters). Good behavior is a primary element of showing *Scout Spirit*, and is a requirement for advancement. The troop's level of authority is as follows:

Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or adult  
Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)  
Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)  
Patrol Leader (PL)  
Assistant Patrol Leader (APL)

In each instance, the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or any adult will have the final authority. The purpose of the authority structure is guidance and teaching of fellow Scouts. It is not to be construed as bossing other Scouts around or making some Scouts do more than their fair share. However, fellow Scouts must recognize this structure and be willing to participate and assist others as requested.

Scouts will not participate in any activity that could be considered dangerous to their fellow Scout. These include but are not limited to hazing, harassing, abuse of fire or flammable materials, or abuse of sharp instruments.

Scouts will conduct themselves properly during all Troop 1034 activities. If the behavior isn't allowed at school or church, it's not acceptable behavior. During all meetings and activities, when the Scout sign is held up, all Scouts and adults shall immediately cease talking and display the same sign. The Class A uniform (tan Scout shirt) is to be worn at all Troop 1034 events from September – May (school year). The Class B uniform (red Troop 1034 T-shirt) may be worn to Summer events from June – August, but the Class A uniform will still be worn when traveling as a troop.

During the patrol activity session of the troop meetings, Scouts will be with their assigned patrol unless given permission by their Patrol Leader to meet with the Scoutmaster, go to the restroom, etc. It is necessary for the Patrol Leader to know the whereabouts of his Scouts. Sodas are to be purchased only before or after the meeting. At no time shall a Scout get up and get a soda during a session or activity.

Visitors are always welcome to attend troop meetings; however, approval from the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster is required one week prior to the meeting.

During a campout, Scouts will be assigned to a patrol. No Scout will leave the campsite without the permission of the Patrol Leader or his designate. Patrol Leaders will get permission from the Senior Patrol Leader in order to leave the area. Disciplinary problems on campouts and activities will not be tolerated. Scouts who cannot behave themselves will be sent home.

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## Scout Conduct (continued)

Buddy System: Scouts will follow BSA's *Buddy System* whenever appropriate. Examples include water activities, whenever a Scout is to go beyond visual range of a campsite, instances where Scouts are interacting with large groups of people not known by the troop, and whenever the Scoutmaster declares the *Buddy System* is in effect.

## Discipline

General: 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. Adherence to the *Troop 1034 Conduct and Discipline Policy* is required to maintain safety, preclude property damage, and avoid disrupting other organizations' activities.

Obedience: Obedience in Troop 1034 means to follow the *Scout Oath* and the *Scout Law*. The *Oath* and *Law* make being a good citizen of the troop, camp, or community possible. Obedience to the *Scout Law* includes respect for Scout (youth) leaders and adult leaders and all members and guests of the troop. Respect for adult and Scout leadership is expected. Under no circumstance will adult or Scout leaders administer physical punishment for any reason. Hazing, of any type, will not be tolerated. Scouts or adults observing such activity will take immediate measures to stop such activity.

## Enforcing Discipline

1. Discipline in patrols will be handled by the Patrol Leaders. Patrol Leaders have the authority to ask any patrol member to shape up and/or leave a patrol meeting and report to the SPL (Senior Patrol Leader). An adult leader must be notified of actions taken.
2. When the Patrol Leader cannot handle the problem, he must obtain help from the Senior Patrol Leader. The Senior Patrol Leader has the authority to ask a Scout to leave the meeting area and report to the Scoutmaster.
3. When the Senior Patrol Leader cannot handle the problem, he must obtain the help of the Scoutmaster.
4. When the Scoutmaster determines that a Scout requires discipline, the following actions are taken:
  - I. First Instance – Conference with the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster. All such conferences should be attended by an appropriate Boy Scout leader and by another adult leader.
  - II. Second Instance – Conference with Scoutmaster and a phone call to parents explaining the problem and stating that one more complaint may result in a suspension for a period of time establish by 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). 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.

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## Enforcing Discipline (continued)

- III. Third Instance – Conference with 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.
- IV. Fourth Instance – 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 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 to the Scout's parents will be sent 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 the Scout's continued presence will continue to be disruptive, the parents of the Scout will be called (any time of day or night) to come and get the Scout.
8. If a Scout feels he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline, he may seek help from the Senior Patrol Leader. A Scout who feels that he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline by the Senior Patrol Leader may seek help from the Scoutmaster, and a Scout who feels that he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline by the Scoutmaster may seek help from the Troop Committee Chair.

## Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco

No Scout shall use, possess, and/or distribute tobacco or any controlled substance (drugs and alcohol). Parents of a Scout found to have used, possessed, or distributed a controlled substance at a Scouting function will be notified. If an illegal substance is involved, the appropriate civil authorities must be notified. Parents of Scouts required to take prescription medication over the period of a troop event will discuss the requirement with the Scoutmaster. Serious medical requirements may require a parent to attend an event and administer medication.

## Do's and Don'ts

The Scoutmaster or adult leader has the authority to confiscate all items deemed inappropriate or dangerous. Personal items confiscated may be returned to the Scout's parents.

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## Do's and Don'ts (continued)

The Boy Scouts of America prohibits the securing, use, and display of fireworks in conjunction with programs and activities, except where the fireworks display is conducted under the auspices of a certified or licensed fireworks control expert. Scouts of Troop 1034 are prohibited from possessing or using fireworks on any Troop 1034 activity.

Firearms will be permitted at troop meetings only if the troop program calls for such activities. Any such activities must have prior approval of the Scoutmaster and the Troop Committee.

Sheath knives are not permitted. Lock-blade and pocket-knives are permitted, but the blade may not exceed 3 inches. Scouts carrying pocket-knives must have their *Totin' Chip* card in their possession as prescribed by BSA training requirements. If the *Totin' Chip* is not on the Scout's person, the knife will be confiscated and returned at the end of the activity.

Each Scout is responsible for making restitution for any damage caused by his actions or negligence. A Scout is *Trustworthy*.

Scout passengers in vehicles traveling to and from events will remember they are a guest of the driver/owner of the vehicle. Scouts will follow the rules set by the driver/owner (e.g. eating, drinking, seating arrangements, and noise levels). Insurance regulations require that seat belts shall be worn at all times.

Fighting is not permitted and is grounds for immediate disciplinary action.

Sexually explicit materials, including *Playboy*, *Penthouse*, *Hustler* magazines, etc. shall not be brought to Scout activities. If found, such materials will be confiscated and returned to the parents of any Scout involved.

Foul language, swearing, cursing, and abusive/suggestive gestures are not in keeping with the ideals of Scouting and will not be allowed. A Scout is *Reverent*, *Courteous*, and *Clean*.

Disrespectful language to any Scout or to any adult is not allowed.

Troop 1034 policies prohibit Scouts from bringing personal radios, televisions, compact disc or cassette players, cell phones, i-Pod/MP3 players, and/or electronic video games on camping trips. For long trips, arrangements can be made for the use of the above equipment during travel to and from the activity. Equipment will be held by the Scoutmaster or adult leader during the activity and will be returned to the Scout for traveling.

## Adult Leader Conduct

Adult leaders shall exhibit the ideals of Scouting when working with the boys. They will strive to set a good example in their handling of all situations. Standards of conduct in personal habits, language, hygiene, and interaction with Scouts will be in accordance with the *Scout Oath* and the *Scout Law*. The Committee Chair is responsible for the conduct of adult leaders. Conduct befitting a Scout is expected of adult participants as well, especially in regards to the *Do's and Don'ts*.

# Troop 1034 Conduct and Discipline Policy

We have read, understand, and agree to the **Troop 1034 Conduct and Discipline Policy** (Approved 01/20/09).

Both parents/guardians (unless the Scout is living with a single, separated, or widowed parent/guardian) and the Scout must sign the page below and return it to the Troop Committee Chair. Full agreement, legible signing, and returning of this sheet are a condition of registration and participation in Troop 1034.

Parent/Guardian Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Scout Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_