

MEMO TO: Troop 149 Scouts and Parents

RE: Troop Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy

DATE: January 4, 2019

## **TROOP 149 CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY POLICY**

**"It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and to prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetimes in achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law."**

Troop 149's Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy consist of the following sixteen points of the Policy and Standards for Units of the Boy Scouts of America chartered by Mariemont Community Church (MCC), supplemented by troop policy regarding Adult Leadership, and Uniforms.

### **Policies and Standards**

- 1) In general, the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan are vital in all respects for measuring and building character, moral and otherwise. We expect all leaders and participants to commit themselves to both the letter and the spirit of these ideals.
- 2) We intend and expect that full effort be given to the spiritual and moral development of all participants. The specifics of "duty to God" and "reverence" will be central to the program of our units, to the example set by leaders, and to advancement of individual Scouts.
- 3) Within this, activities and programs should be planned with appropriate focus:
  - We will dedicate one Sunday per year as Scout Sunday, and invite Units to participate in our worship services at MCC;
  - Outings scheduled for Sundays will include devotional or worship services on the outing;
  - Mealtimes should normally be accompanied by a time of thanksgiving.
- 4) We do not require participants to become members of MCC. But we do encourage them to worship regularly at a church of their choice.
- 5) The Scout uniform will be the normal attire **at all Scout functions**. If this is a financial burden for some participants, we expect the Troop Committee to provide an expedient way for the Scout to earn a uniform.
- 6) Legal and safe behavior are vital to the long-term health of the program and to the confidence the community at large deserves to have in Scouting and the Church. We will hold the program to the highest possible standards.
- 7) When transporting Scouts, I will obey all laws, comply with Youth Protection guidelines, and follow safe driving practices.

- 8) Scouts and Adults will not possess, distribute, transport, consume, or use any of the following items prohibited by law or in violation of any Scouting rules, regulations, and policies:
  - Alcoholic beverages or controlled substances, including marijuana
  - Concealed or unconcealed firearms, fireworks, or explosives
  - Pornography or materials containing words or images inconsistent with Scouting values
  
- 9) We expect the adult leadership of the Troop to meet rigorous standards. All registered adults will be evaluated by the Committee Chairman and/or the MCC Elder Council on the highest standards recommended by the BSA and shall undergo recommended training commensurate with their duties with the Troop.
  
- 10) Adult leaders are to act responsibly and with authority when required by the situation. Any Scout who endangers themselves or others will be removed from the Scout meeting or activity to the custody of parents or other legal authority. If specific instructions or standards have been given to a Scout who is endangering themselves or others, and the activity or behavior continues, then the Scout is to be immediately dismissed from the program.
  
- 11) The MCC Elder Council (or a representative) will meet with the Committee Chairman and the Scoutmaster twice per year to discuss the progress of the Troop.
  
- 12) A Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy appropriate to the Troop will be developed by the Committee, agreed with the Council of Elders, shared with and signed by each Scout and Parent or Guardian.
  - It is the responsibility of the Committee Chairman and the Scoutmaster to ensure these standards are established and maintained by the Troop. These leaders are to be informed immediately of any events or behaviors which appear to be inconsistent with these policies and standards, or with the Guide to Safe Scouting. Serious matters may be brought directly to the Church leadership at any time.
  - These policies and standards may be changed from time to time by the Council of Elders of MCC. They will be reviewed by the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman with each family who considers joining the MCC Scouting program and reviewed annually with the Committee.
  
- 13) All Scouts and Adults will respect and abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America, BSA policies, and BSA-provided training, including but not limited to those relating to:
  - Bullying, hazing, harassment, and unlawful discrimination of any kind
  - Hazing and Initiation of any kind are strictly prohibited
  
- 14) **Coed Behavior on outings** (both genders at the same activity) All Scouts will be aware that both genders can be present for all functions and activities. Coed behavior expectations for Troop members includes the following:
  - All volunteers and adults attending Scout outings are expected to conform to behavior that reflects Scouting's high standards and traditional values laid out in the Scout Oath & the Scout Law.
  - **Sleeping and housing arrangements:**
    - Male and female youth participants must not share the same sleeping facilities. A clear delineation and separation of the male and female sleeping areas should be established. This includes tent, cabin and hammock areas for example.

- No Scout will stay in a tent of an adult unless absolutely necessary and then only with their parent or legal guardian.
- Adult male leaders are responsible for the male participants, and the adult female leaders are responsible for the female participants.
- Adult Male and Female leaders require separate sleeping facilities unless they are married, and appropriate facilities are available.
- No entering the domiciles (tents, cabins, rooms etc.) of the opposite gender.
- **Bathroom/Restroom arrangements:**
  - Bathrooms and shower facilities should be identified by either: Youth Male, Youth Female, Adult male or Adult female
    - If separate bathrooms are not available, when females are using the bathroom facilities, males are not allowed, and vice versa.
  - Adult leaders need to respect the privacy of the youth member in situations where they are changing clothes or taking showers and intrude only to the extent that the health and safety require (note: 2 deep leadership must be maintained). Adults need to protect their own privacy in similar situations.
- **Buddy System:**
- When using the buddy system, buddies must be of the same gender or follow the Truddie system:
  - adult male, adult male, male youth
  - adult male, adult female, female youth
  - adult female, adult female, female youth
  - adult female, adult male, male youth
  - male youth, male youth
  - female youth, female youth
  - female youth, male youth, plus 1(female or male youth)
- No public display of affection. This includes kissing, hugging, and hand holding. Clinging to one another instead of participating in activity or interacting with others is also not acceptable.
- Use common sense. Be respectful and considerate of each other.

#### 15) Siblings on outings:

- As Scouting is a volunteer organization it will at times be necessary for an adult volunteer leader to bring along the sibling of a registered Scout to an event or activity due to not having anyone available to watch them. This allows the adult volunteer to be able to contribute and for the event or activity to take place with full adult oversight. To that end our Troop utilizes the following Sibling guidelines:
  - Youth protection & This Troop 149 Code of Conduct applies to guests.
  - All Boy Scout activities are just that, Boy Scout activities. They are executed for the sole benefit of the active registered Scouts in the troop. All decisions will be made to that end.
  - Non-Scouts must be in the presence of their parent or legal guardian ONLY.
  - Parents or legal guardians are solely liable for the conduct and safety of their child.
  - Sibling participation is dependent on availability. If we have room for 20 and only 19 Scouts sign up, then that 1 slot can be filled by a sibling.
  - If this is an activity that scouts need to qualify for in order to attend, then siblings may not attend. After all, why join scouts if you can just hop on a trip that the other guys have to work for?
  - Siblings join the adult patrol for their meals and camp with the adult patrol.
  - If any non-scout causes problems that person will be sent home from the activity at the first available opportunity.

