

*Boy Scouts of America*  
**Troop 9**  
New Egypt, New Jersey

## **Code of Conduct and Discipline Guidelines**

All Scouts, Leaders and Parents of Troop 9 are expected to exhibit "Scout Spirit," which is defined as the daily living of the Scout Oath and Scout 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. All Scouts should help build Troop unity and an effective, enjoyable program. These are the basics of Scouting.

**Scouts who follow the Scout Oath and Scout Law have a "right" to expect a Troop to discipline Scouts who disrupt Troop programs and activities or threaten the safety or well being of other Troop members.**

The BSA "Spirit of Scouting" dictates high expectations for the behavior of all Scouts in Troop 9. All Troop members are asked to abide by the rules and guidelines set forth here, and are expected to show self-control and self-discipline at all times. Failure to comply may jeopardize a scout's signoff for Scout Spirit by the Troop Leadership for a period of time toward Rank Advancement or may result in disciplinary actions.

### **Code of Conduct**

The following rules of conduct have been adopted for purposes of health, safety and behavioral conduct:

1. Failure to follow reasonable directives from a leader, junior leader (SPL or ASPL), or other adult is unacceptable.
2. Unruly, loud, disrespectful or disobedient behavior or language will not be tolerated. The Adult Leader in charge is responsible for each boy's safety and boys will be held accountable for obedience to the fullest extent.
3. When the Boy Scout Sign goes up, everyone is quiet. This is true not only at our Troop meetings, but also at every Scout event.
4. No swearing, or use of offensive or inappropriate language.
5. No fires of any kind are permitted inside tents. This means no candles, lit matches, stoves, heaters or lanterns. Only battery operated lanterns or flashlights are permitted.
6. Fire safety rules will be enforced at all times. Scouts will not play in the fire or wave burning sticks in the air. Fires will be placed only in designated locations. Scouts will be allowed to have matches as part of their 10 essentials, but these will only be used under Adult Leader supervision.
7. No Scout will carry or use a knife, until he has completed the proper training and is in possession of a valid "Tote 'N Chip" card.

8. Sheath knives and knives with blades of more than four (4) inches will not be carried by boys or adults under any circumstances. Any knife deemed unsafe will be confiscated. The Adult Leadership's word is absolutely final in this area.
9. Lights out will be respected. Be considerate of your neighbors. Lights-out times will be determined by the Adult Leaders in charge.
10. Respect other people's property. No borrowing of any people or troop's equipment or property without prior consent. If it is not yours, leave it alone. Practical jokes, such as hiding someone else's gear, sabotaging tents, stuffing a sleeping bag with leaves, etc., have no place in this Troop, and will not be tolerated.
11. No alcohol or any other controlled substances are allowed by Scouts or adults (except medication of which the Adult Leadership is aware).
12. No use of any tobacco products by any youth members. Adults may use with discretion in designated areas per BSA Policy.
13. Tape/CD players, portable TV's, radios, MP3 players, ipods, cellular phones, portable games, etc. are not allowed. Personal MP3 player or games, with headphones, may be allowed during long travels to and from an event, but requires prior driver and Adult Leader approval.
14. Firearms, fire crackers, 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 archery and rifle ranges. The penalty for bringing fireworks on a campout is suspension for a whole year. It's not worth it!
15. Food, candy, snacks or soft drinks of any kind are NOT allowed in tents.
16. There are to be no carbonated drinks on campouts. Exceptions are made only by the Adult Leader.
17. Horseplay or inappropriate physical roughness will not be tolerated. Never restrain another Scout. No shoving, punching, kicking, hitting, slapping or stick fighting is allowed.
18. Throwing of rocks or other objects in an inappropriate or unsafe manner is NOT allowed.
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 by any Scout or Adult Leader.
20. No Scout shall leave an activity and/or designated area without the Adult Leader'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. Scouts are required to have another person or buddy with them when swimming, meeting with a Merit Badge Counselor and during other specified Boy Scout activities.
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, loud arguments, hurtful comments, jokes at other people's expense, etc. have no place in Scouting. Fistfights or verbal arguments never resolve the problem and are simply not allowed. Troop suspension is the minimum consequence.

**When in doubt, let the Scout Oath and Scout Law be your guide.**

**The Adult Troop Leader reserves the right to determine any and all other forms of unacceptable behavior, as they occur.**

## Discipline Guidelines

There are times when it is necessary to discipline a Scout for abusing the Code of Conduct. Discipline and control must be treated as an individual matter, realizing the best discipline is preventive in nature rather than regulatory and restrictive. Scouts will receive positive reinforcement (praise) when exhibiting appropriate behaviors. The Adult Leadership will ultimately be responsible for the proper behavior of Troop members and, therefore, will be expected to enforce a fair and consistent disciplinary plan.

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

It is the responsibility of the Adult Leadership, or the adult leader in charge, to supervise the discipline of all Scouts.

**How Scouts are disciplined, by whom, when, and where are important issues that must be clearly established and communicated to all Scouts, Adult Leaders and parents. Scouts have a "right" to know what the consequences are if they break the rules.**

The **physical presence of an Adult Leader is necessary** to monitor the behavior of all Scouts. The Adult Leader should then decide what course of action is necessary to improve the situation. Discipline sessions are to be conducted off to the side, but in full view of Scouts or adults.

Adult Leaders always have the right and responsibility to immediately step into any situation they consider unsafe. These situations include, but are not limited to: fighting, hazing, foul language, bullying, sexual misconduct, or any type of inappropriate behavior in public.

The consequences for not following BSA and Troop 9 rules will be the Adult Leadership or Committee applying one or more of the following based on the severity and/or repeated poor behavior issues:

- Verbal warning(s) by SPL, ASPL or Adult Leadership.
- Removal from activity, outing or event.
- Withhold Board of Review and rank advancement due to failure of the "demonstrates Scout Spirit" requirement.
- Removal or ineligibility from troop position and/or office. Reject "Order of the Arrow" eligibility.
- Recommend a review meeting by the Adult Leadership and/or the Troop Committee

- Suspension and/or expulsion from the Troop depending on the severity of the violation and the safety hazard caused

**The following incidents are considered severe infractions**

- Fighting, where another scout is injured
- Any abuse allegations of a Scout by a Scout
- Bullying or Hazing
- Stealing
- Controlled substance use or possession
- Deliberate destruction of Troop, personal or private property
- Any other major or severe incident

## **Adult Leadership Guidelines**

All adults working with the Troop are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous and professional manner. Adults are expected to lead by example and not be disruptive or distracting during Troop meetings or outdoor activities. Scouts are influenced by the adult behavior around them. Adult behavior problems will be dealt with by the Troop Committee and all other concerned adults in a professional and timely manner.

Adults should be ever mindful that Boy Scouts of America is a boy-run, adult-supervised organization.

Corporal Punishment is prohibited. No adult may knowingly ever touch or strike a Scout.

**Troop 9**  
New Egypt, New Jersey

**Code of Conduct and Discipline Guidelines**  
**Scout and Parent/Guardian Agreement**

I have read the Troop 9 Code of Conduct and Discipline Guidelines and understand what is expected of me, as a Boy Scout. I will abide by the Scout Oath, the Scout Law and the Outdoor Code. I will show respect to others, be friendly to my fellow Scouts, and show "Scout Spirit". I will continue to exhibit the "Scout Spirit" at all Troop 9 meetings, outings and most importantly in ALL my daily activities.

In choosing to participate in Troop 9 meetings and activities, I hereby indicate my agreement and commitment to observe the troop's Code of Conduct and Discipline Guidelines.

The Troop 9 Code of Conduct and Discipline Guidelines will be updated and distributed to all Scouts and parents/guardians on an annual basis, or as deemed necessary by the Troop Leadership and Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scout Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scout Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I consent to my son's participation in all Troop 9 meetings and activities. I hereby indicate my understanding and agreement with the Troop 9 Code of Conduct and Discipline Guidelines, and I agree to support my son's commitment to the Code of Conduct. I will respect the decisions of the Troop Leadership and Committee regarding enforcing the Code of Conduct and Discipline Guidelines and consequences.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

***Please sign and return this Agreement and retain the Code of Conduct and Discipline Guidelines for your records. Thank you for your support and cooperation.***