

Boy Scout Troop 198 Code of Conduct Policy

The Boy Scouts of America have two sets of ideals that govern the conduct of any scout. These are the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. When a boy becomes a Scout, he promises to try to live by these ideals. A list of rules and regulations would do nothing more than repeat what is already contained in the Oath and Law. Every Scout in Troop 198 is expected to conduct themselves according to the Scout Oath and Scout Law to insure order and safety at Troop meetings, functions and outings, including Summer Camp.

Troop 198's procedure for dealing with Scouts who do not conduct themselves according to the Scout Oath & Law is as follows:

1. General discipline within the Troop is the responsibility of the Scoutmaster. It is intended that the Scoutmaster attend to nearly all conduct issues that may occur within the troop with only the most serious or recurring conduct problems referred by the Scoutmaster to the Troop Committee Chairman for appropriate action as set forth herein. The intent of this Policy is to give the widest possible latitude to the Scoutmaster to address conduct issues promptly, fairly, effectively and confidentially if appropriate and to give the Scoutmaster broad discretion to impose just and reasonable punishment/discipline that he deems necessary and correct at the time.
2. Any Scout who (in the opinion of the Scoutmaster) does not conduct himself according to the Scout Oath & Law will have a Scoutmaster Conference (or at the discretion of the Scoutmaster, multiple conferences) in an attempt to solve the problem. The Scoutmaster may or may not, at his discretion, involve the Senior Patrol Leader in this conference. (The Senior Patrol Leader is not involved in steps 3-6 below.) Within a reasonable amount of time, to be no later than seven (7) days following the Scoutmaster Conference, the Scoutmaster will inform the Scout's parents that a Scoutmaster Conference has occurred to discuss a conduct problem and will describe the problem and the proposed plan of correction to the parents. If the Scoutmaster is not present or available within a reasonable amount of time after the offending conduct occurs, the following individuals (in the following specified order of prompt availability) shall stand-in for the Scoutmaster for purposes of the Scoutmaster Conference requirement of this paragraph only: (1) the most senior (in terms of tenure) Assistant Scoutmaster immediately available, (2) the Troop Committee Chairman, (3) the designated tour leader if on an outing, and (4) the most senior (in terms of tenure) Troop Committee Member immediately available. Whenever the Scoutmaster is not present when the offending conduct occurs and another adult leader is required to stand-in for the Scoutmaster for purposes of this paragraph, said adult leader shall provide a report of the incident and resulting Scoutmaster Conference to the Scoutmaster and Troop Committee Chairman no later than the next available troop meeting or troop committee meeting, whichever shall occur first.

3. If in the opinion of the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chairman, a Scout's conduct continues to contradict the Scout Oath and Scout Law after the Scoutmaster (or his stand-in described in paragraph 2, if applicable) has tried to work with the Scout and his parents, then the Troop Committee Chairman along with two other Committee Members selected by the Troop Committee Chairman, shall convene a Conduct Review Board ("CRB") with the Scout and his parents. The results of this review/meeting may include, but is not limited to, specific restrictions from troop activities or a temporary general suspension from the Troop for reasonable period of time deemed appropriate by the members of the CRB.
4. Finally, if the Scout's conduct has not improved after all of the above steps have been attempted, the Scoutmaster and CRB may place take additional disciplinary action against the Scout which may include, but is not limited to, a short or long-term suspension or recommendation of expulsion of the Scout from Troop 198. If practical, the composition of the CRB for purposes of this paragraph should be the same as the composition of the CRB that the Scout may have previously appeared before.
5. Illegal use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco or firearms, theft, or other major departures from the Scout Oath and Law, whether they occur inside or outside of the Scouting environment, may result in an immediate suspension from the Troop for up to sixty (60) days based upon a review and agreement by the Scoutmaster and Troop Committee Chairman. Within said sixty (60) day period, the Committee Chairman shall convene a CRB for the purpose of reviewing the suspension, reviewing the conduct at issue, imposing additional disciplinary measures and if deemed necessary, make recommendations to the Troop Committee.
6. If a majority of any properly convened CRB recommends expulsion of a Scout from the Troop, such recommendation must be voted upon by a quorum of the Troop Committee at a regularly scheduled Troop Committee meeting. A 2/3 majority of the members of the Troop Committee present for such vote must vote affirmatively for expulsion of the Scout for the expulsion to be effective. For any Scout expelled from the Troop, the Troop shall refund a pro-rata portion of the troop membership dues already paid by the Scout's family. No refunds from a Scout's Individual Scout Account shall be made unless the Scout transfers to another Scouting unit (i.e., a troop, ship, crew, etc.) within six (6) months. Upon any vote by a CRB to recommend expulsion or a vote by the Troop Committee to effectuate such recommendation of expulsion, the COR shall be notified within seven (7) days of such vote.
7. A Scout shall have the right to appeal any decision reached under paragraphs 2-6 by filing a written request for such appeal within two (2) months of the date of the decision to the Chartered Organization Representative ("COR") whose decision shall be final. Upon an appeal being lodged with the COR, any appealed decision of the Scoutmaster and/or Troop Committee Chairman and/or the CRB shall be

reduced to writing with copies promptly forwarded to the Scoutmaster, the Troop Committee Chairman, the Scout and the COR.

8. Any adult leader involved in proceedings contemplated by paragraphs 2-7 above shall recuse him or herself when such proceeding involves a son related by blood or marriage or other relationship that could cause an appearance of a conflict of interest. In case of such recusal, the COR shall appoint a replacement for purposes of this Policy unless the COR shall recuse himself. In such case, the Troop Committee Chairman shall appoint a replacement. If both the COR and Committee Chairman are conflicted out, the Executive Officer of the Chartering Organization shall appoint both replacements from among members of the Troop's assistant scoutmasters and/or troop committee members.
9. The Scoutmaster should report to the troop committee as needed regarding any repetitive or serious incidents of misbehavior.
10. Where national BSA policies and/or those of the local council conflict with the provisions of this Policy, national and local council policies, procedures and guidelines shall control.
11. The Chartering Organization of Troop 198 shall have the right to modify this Policy on an individual basis as needed to meet the needs of an individual Scout and his family.

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