

Rules of Conduct

Boy Scouts is a boy-led environment, but there do need to be some ground rules of conduct laid out for Troop 50:

- **Adult Leaders' Behavior** -- Adult leaders of Troop 50 are expected to maintain a standard of conduct, even outside of troop time. For example, someone who abuses drugs or alcohol (i.e., gets drunk) will not make a suitable leader. Given the rampant abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and various drugs in our culture, we request that our adult leaders set a good example by not using any tobacco on troop outings or activities. As for alcohol, there is an official policy with our national organization: "The Boy Scouts of America prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances at encampments or activities on property owned and/or operated by the Boy Scouts of America, or at any activity involving participation of youth members."
- **Two-Deep Leadership** -- The rules of the Boy Scouts of America's national organization require "two-deep" leadership at all events, for the protection of the boys. This means that at no time can only one adult be with a boy or boys on a campout or other activity. If a second adult cannot be found to accompany the group, then the event must be canceled.
- **Respect for Adults** -- Boys in Troop 50 address adults by their proper title, e.g., "Mr. Hoffmann." We realize this isn't very common these days, but it is a good way to get the boys to show respect to their adult leaders (and it's what they already do for teachers and most coaches).
- **Respect for Peers** -- While a little friendly teasing and rough-housing is natural and healthy for adolescent boys, we enforce respect for peers. (E.g., we will not tolerate bullying, excessive teasing and mean-spirited making fun of other boys, as well as any use of profanity.) Also, boys are expected to pay attention when someone is talking to the group.
- **No electronic gagets** -- We do not allow devices such as cell phones, MP3 players, and Gameboys on troop outings. There is nothing inherently wrong with these activities, but it robs the boy's time and attention away from other activities that are more helpful to his development. Believe it or not, boys in the 21st century still can have a lot of fun the old-fashioned way! (Note that adults may carry cell phones for emergency use and to provide a heads-up for return time.)
- **Soda pop & junk food** -- Similarly, we try to limit junk food and soda pop on campouts. Pop is heavy to pack, can get messy and sticky if spilled, attracts bugs and animals, can lead to behavior problems with the sugar/caffeine blast, and requires boys to pack out the empty cans. It just isn't worth it! Some sweets are allowed for desserts and snacks, but the boys are encouraged to plan well-balanced meals since that's required for some [rank advancements](#).
- **Other contraband** -- It should go without saying, but we'll say it just in case. We will swiftly deal with any boy who brings any "contraband" to any Scouting activity --

alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, pornography, firearms, etc. Repercussions may include expulsion from the troop.

- **Safety** -- Boys do the planning and lead the way on Scout campouts and activities, but the adults are there to make sure that a minimum level of safety standards exist. For example, some parents cringe at the thought of their "little boy" wielding an ax or saw to cut firewood, but that is a privilege that the boy must earn by getting his "[Totin' Chip](#)" certification. The Boy Scouts of America puts out a document that has all the minimum rules of safety that every Boy Scout troop needs to follow:

"The Guide to Safe Scouting" (GTSS)

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx>

Please read that and let us know if you have any questions. It covers safety while in the water (swimming, canoeing, sailing, etc.), safety while camping, first aid, youth protection, transportation, stoves and campfires, winter activities, and others.

- **Tips for new dads on campouts** -- Fathers of Scouts are always welcomed and encouraged to join us on campouts! (Keep in mind, however, that some trips such as high-adventure have strict limits on crew size.) The main concept to keep in mind is that we are a boy-led troop. Here are some tips for dads who may be new to our troop:
 - **No alcohol** -- Alcohol is completely forbidden at any Scouting event by the Boy Scouts of America.
 - **No tobacco** -- smoking is prohibited on the grounds of L.E. Phillips Scout Reservation. If you must smoke on other campouts, please do so discretely so that boys don't see you, and never in a tent or cabin or vehicle with boys.
 - **No firearms** -- Firearms are permitted only on official Boy Scout rifle ranges, not on normal campouts.
 - **Avoid profanity** -- remember that adults are serving as role models for the boys, so let's avoid swearing.
 - **Avoid disciplining your own son** -- This one is sometimes tough for parents. Try to work through the line of command in the troop if there are behavior issues. The last thing you want is for your son to wish you didn't come on the campout.
 - **Let your son sleep in a tent with his patrol** -- many new dads think they're doing their young son a favor by sleeping with him, but we find that it's better for the Scout to bond with the boys in his patrol and get a little independence from Dad. He'll appreciate that you're nearby, even if he doesn't show it.
 - **"Never do what a boy can do"** -- that is the slogan of Scouting's founder. Yes, we all love to build fires, hang the bear bag, split wood, etc. But if boys aren't allowed to do that (sometimes painfully slowly), they won't learn. You may need to bring a book on campouts to keep you busy!
 - **Work through chain of command** -- every Scout reports to his patrol leader (PL), and patrol leaders all report to the senior patrol leader (SPL), who reports to the Scoutmaster. If you see a Scout that should be doing something (or should STOP doing something), try to avoid directly commanding that Scout if possible. Rather, mention it to his patrol leader. Better yet, work through the SPL, who will

work with that Scout's PL. That keeps the youth leaders in the loop, and being responsible for their boys is how they learn leadership.

- **Help make the Turtle Patrol the best ever!** -- to avoid interfering with a boy-led troop, all the dads on a campout are in their own patrol, the "Turtle Patrol." We try to show off and out-do the other patrols in cooking, building camp gadgets, or whatever. You can channel your creative energy and camping experience in helping make the Turtle Patrol a great example for the boys, without directly interfering with their patrols.
- **Participation** -- All scouts are expected to participate in at least two community service projects per year (Make a Difference Day, Lion's Club Adopt a Highway, Scout Food Drive, Watermelon Fest clean up). All scouts are expected to participate in at least two fund raising projects per year (popcorn sales, Ringlespiel clean up, food stand). Parents are encouraged to participate in these events with their sons.