

Troop 401 Conduct and Discipline Guide

Good Conduct Means Obeying the Scout Law and the Oath

Troop 401's expectation is that all scouts and adults conduct themselves in accordance with the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. If all scouts work toward this goal, the need for discipline will be minimal.

As a general rule, Patrol leaders will exercise their leadership skills and work to regain control of situations whenever possible. However, in situations concerning safety, or where Patrol leaders do not succeed in dealing with the situation effectively, adult leaders must, and will, promptly intervene. Extreme situations will be discussed with parents, and in some cases parents may be asked to attend troop meetings and outings with their sons. Extreme situations include not only physical harm, but emotional harm as well. Friendly joking and kidding is part of being a boy, and part of developing strong friendships. Taken to an extreme, however, in which a scout's personal traits, family traits, or personal beliefs are ridiculed, can result in hard feelings and flared tempers. Such humiliation and hazing of any kind violates the Scout Law and the Scout Oath, and will absolutely not be tolerated. Any behaviors arising to the level of misconduct or violations of the Scout Oath or Scout Law will be dealt with in accordance with the discipline procedures outlined below. Scouts and their parents have a right to know what the consequences are if they violate the Oath and Law, likewise, Scouts who obey the Oath and the Law and the parents of those scouts have a right to expect the Troop to discipline those who violate them.

Each scout and parent or guardian will affirm acceptance of these policies and procedures in writing upon joining the Troop, or in order to remain in the Troop for those who are current members, and again each time a troop permission slip is signed for Troop activities. These policies and procedures are available in print upon request.

If poor conduct or unsafe behavior is seen or heard about, it should be reported to a Patrol Leader or Assistant Patrol Leader. The PL or APL should give a verbal warning to stop the behavior. If the problem continues, the PL or APL will contact the Senior Patrol Leader or Assistant Senior Patrol Leader who will observe the situation. The SPL or ASPL will coach the scout and/or issue another verbal warning. In the event that the behavior continues or if physical danger is possible, the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster should be contacted. The SM or ASM in charge shall conduct a conference with the offending scout, and impose any of the consequences outlined below after consulting with PL, APL, SPL, and/or ASPL.

Subsequent offenses by a scout may result in further levels of review in addition to those conducted above by youth leaders, including a review by the Troop Adult Committee Chairperson and Scoutmaster, and/or a review committee made up of the Committee Chairperson, Scoutmaster and 3 other Committee Members.

Categories of Consequences

- I. Serious violations resulting in personal injury**
- II. Serious violations not resulting in personal injury**
- III. Less serious violations**

Specific examples of misconduct: (certainly not all-inclusive)

- 1 Fighting (I, II, III)
- 2 Any behavior that results in the intentional or reckless infliction of physical injury (I)
- 3 Any behavior that results in the intentional or reckless infliction of emotional injury (II)
- 4 Hazing, forcing, or bullying a scout to perform dangerous stunts. (I, II)
- 5 Showing disrespect to adult leaders or youth leaders (II)
- 6 Smoking or chewing tobacco, drinking alcohol, using illegal drugs, or abusing legal drugs or prescription medications. (II)
- 7 Foul Language (“dirty talk” and swearing) (II)
- 8 Stealing property of others (II)
- 9 Any behavior that results in intentional or reckless damage to personal property. (II)
- 10 Inappropriate and unwanted touching (I, II, III)

I. Serious Violations that Result in Personal Injury:

A violation that results in personal injury to a scout (category I above) will result in a discussion of the behavior with the offending scout, a review of the Scout Oath and Law, an apology to the victim(s), notification of the violation to the parent, and any of the following.

1. Lack of Scout Spirit will result in a delay of awarding the advancement until the next court of honor following the completion of the probation, requiring additional service project assigned by the Scout Master. This project will be turned into a power point demonstration of why and what not to do (this is to be a learning tool); requiring a parent or assigned leader to attend the next 3 outings and four troop meetings attended by the scout. (Parent will not be included in Leader to Scout Ratio for outing.)
2. If the violation occurs during an outing, the Committee Chair or Scout Master should be contacted to discuss removal of the scout from the outing. Parents or Guardians of the scout will be contacted so they can make arrangements for the scout to be returned home at their expense. In the event that a parent is unable or refuses to pick up their scout from a scout event/outing; they will be expected to cover the financial cost for two adult scouters to retrieve the scout from the outing.
3. Dismissal from the troop for conduct resulting in Serious Personal Injury (usually reserved for subsequent offenses, but may be imposed for first offense if injury is significant/or scout’s attitude is less than remorseful).

II. Serious Violations that do not result in Personal Injury:

A violation that is serious but does not result in personal injury to a scout (category II above) will result in a discussion of the behavior, a review of the Scout Oath and Law, an apology to the victim(s), notification of the violation to the parent, and any of the following:

1. Lack of Scout Spirit will result in requiring the completion of the rank requirements but delaying awarding the advancement until the next court of honor following the completion of the probation; requiring additional project assigned by the Scout Master. Require a parent or assigned leader to attend the next 3 outings and four troop meetings attended by the scout parent. (The parent will not be a part of the Leader Scout ratio.)
2. If the violation occurs during an outing, and the scout does not appear amendable to accepting responsibility for his action and otherwise is less than remorseful for his conduct, suspension from the remainder of the outing and requiring the scout to go home, at the expense and arrangements of the scout’s parents.

3. Dismissal from the troop for subsequent offenses.

In the event that a parent is unable or refuses to pick up their scout from a scout event/outing; they will be expected to cover the financial cost for two adult scouters to retrieve the scout from the outing.

III. Less Serious Violations: For less serious repeated violations (category III above), the following consequences may be imposed as indicated:

1. A discussion of the behavior, a review of the Scout Oath and Law, and a warning that any further violation will result in further consequences (the “next step”), for a first offense.
2. Repeat of #1, plus “next step” of requiring a project assigned by the Scout Master (this is to be a learning tool), for a second offense.
3. Repeat of #2, plus “next step” of requiring a project assigned by the Scout Master (this is to be a learning tool), plus a meeting with the parents for a third offense.
4. Repeat of #3, “next step” Require that a parent or assigned leader attends the next 3 outings and four troop meetings attended by the scout parent, for a fourth offense.
5. Dismissal from the troop, for a fifth offense.

In the event that a parent is unable or refuses to pick up their scout from a scout event/outing; they will be expected to cover the financial cost for two adult scouters to retrieve the scout from the outing.

(If a scout needs to be removed from the unit, the BSA Guidelines will be followed as outlined below.)

The unit committee should review repetitive or serious incidents of misbehavior in consultation with the parents of the child to determine a course of corrective action including possible revocation of the youth's membership in the unit.

If problem behavior persists, units may revoke a Scout's membership in that unit. When a unit revokes a Scout's membership, it should promptly notify the council of the action.

The unit should inform the Scout executive about all incidents that result in a physical injury or involve allegations of sexual misconduct by a youth member with another youth member.

We have read, discussed and understand the Troop 401 Behavior Policy.

Scout: _____

Parent: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____