



Troop 4 - Hopkinton, MA BOY SCOUT CODE OF CONDUCT

Rev. 7/29/10

This document has been prepared by the adult leadership of Troop 4 as a guide to our scouts and their parents.

Troop 4 scouts are required to adhere to the following codes of conduct and behavior. By signing this document, scouts and their parents acknowledge that they have read, understand, and agree to abide by these rules.

General Behavior: It is expected that our scouts always follow both the **Boy Scout Oath** & the **Boy Scout Law**. All scouts are expected to act in a friendly, courteous, and kind manner during all Troop 4 meetings, activities, and outings. Scouts are expected to treat their leaders, parents, and fellow scouts with respect and courtesy at all times.

At no time should a scout act aggressively toward another scout, or in any way touch another scout unless part of an accepted handshake or activity. Wrestling, horseplay, or any other potentially harmful physical behavior or contact is not allowed. The use of rude, profane, or otherwise offensive language or sounds is not acceptable.

Dangerous Items: In general, misuse of potentially dangerous tools or hazardous materials (including knives, axes, saws, bug spray, charcoal lighter fluid, etc.) will not be tolerated by Troop 4 at any time.

The possession or use of any items such as fireworks, guns (firearms, pellet, airsoft, paintball, etc.), weapons, tobacco products, alcohol, drugs (except parent-approved medications), spray paint, solvents, harmful materials, or any other item(s) that are deemed dangerous by an adult leader is strictly prohibited.

Scouts must earn their **Firem'n Chit** in order to possess or use fire-making materials (e.g. matches, lighters, charcoal lighter fluid, etc.) at scout outings. Once the scout earns his **Firem'n Chit**, he is expected to handle fire safely. The possession or use of matches, lighters, other fire-making materials during scout troop meetings is strictly prohibited. Any violation relating to possession of fire-making materials, unapproved lighting of fires, or burning of objects may result in confiscation of the scout's fire-making material(s) and suspension of the scout's **Firem'n Chit**.

Scouts must earn their **Totin' Chip** in order to carry and use an approved folding knife or multi-tool during scout activities. Non-folding knives are strictly prohibited. Once the scout earns his **Totin' Chip**, he is expected to handle knives safely. Any violation of knife rules may result in confiscation of the scout's knife and suspension of the scout's **Totin' Chip**. These rules also apply to other sharp tools such as axes, hatchets, saws, and the like.

Uniforms: All scouts are expected to wear their complete "Field Uniform" (Class A) shirt and neckerchief to all scouting events, unless otherwise directed that their "Activity Uniform" (Class B) shirt is acceptable for that event. Troop 4 encourages scouts to wear green, khaki, or tan colored pants or shorts with their Class A shirts. Generally, jeans are acceptable for scout work projects

Respect of Property and Space: Scouts are expected to respect the property of their fellow scouts and leaders, and are not to touch or take items belonging to others, unless specific permission from that person is granted.

Scouts are expected to respect the space of their fellow scouts and will not enter a tent or living quarters of another scout without permission. At no time will a scout enter a tent, cabin, or other living quarters of an adult leader, whether or not the leader is present. Refer to BSA's **Youth Protection Program** for guidelines on how adult leaders are trained to protect scouts.

Buddy System: Scouts are ALWAYS expected to use the "buddy system", especially during scout outings and summer camp.

Electronics: The use of electronic items such as cell phones, game systems, or portable music players during scout meetings is prohibited so scouts can receive the full benefit of the program. The use of cell phones is allowed under certain conditions (i.e. to call a parent for a ride) with permission from a scout leader. Activities such as texting, playing games, or other cell phone applications are not allowed during troop meetings.

Appearance and Hygiene: A scout is clean. Clean t-shirts are expected to be worn daily and use of deodorant is encouraged. For safety, no bare feet are allowed in camp. Scouts will comb/brush their hair and brush their teeth at least daily. At summer camp, scouts will shower at least every other day.

Bullying: Bullying (verbal, physical, or electronic), hazing, and secret organizations are forbidden and will not be tolerated. In Massachusetts, and in an increasing number of states, bullying is now considered an illegal activity.

What is bullying?

- Bullying is any behavior causing physical or emotional distress to another scout that is deliberate, hurtful, or repeated over time.
- Bullying can be physical, verbal, emotional, social, behavioral, or any combination.
- Bullying can take place just about anywhere: at a troop meeting, scout activity or outing, on the bus, at school, even online via the Internet.

Examples of bullying:

- Pushing, shoving or other acts that may hurt other scouts physically;
- Teasing other scouts in a manner that causes distress or fear to the one being teased;
- Spreading rumors about other scouts;
- Excluding others members from Troop activities;
- Ganging up on or otherwise intimidating fellow scouts.

What is cyber-bullying?

- When people bully others using the internet, cell phones, or other cyber technology.

Examples of cyber-bullying:

- Sending mean or offensive text messages, emails, voice, or instant messages (IMs);
- Posting nasty pictures or messages about others in "blogs", on websites, social media sites (i.e. Facebook) or via instant messaging (IM's)
- Using someone else's user name to spread rumors or lies about another person.

Scouts who witness bullying are expected to discourage it, and stand up for the bullied individual. Each scout is expected to be brave, kind, and courteous in accordance with the scout law.

Scouts who do not follow the Troop 4 Boy Scout Code of Conduct may be subject to the following escalating disciplinary actions.

I understand that, should I violate the Code of Conduct during a Troop 4 meeting, trip or event which results in a dangerous or unacceptable situation, my parents may be called by the scout leaders and asked to bring me home. In addition, depending on the nature of the situation(s), I understand that further Troop 4 disciplinary action may be warranted, including my being suspended or asked to leave the Troop.

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Troop 4 Boy Scout Code of Conduct as presented above.

Print Scout's Name

Print Parent Name

Scout's Signature

Parent's Signature

Date

Date