

# Basic Troop Policies Troop 911, BSA

## February 2007

1. **When the sign goes up, the mouth goes shut.** This is true not only at our Troop meetings but also at every Scout event. Failure to stop talking *when* the sign is raised cuts into time allocated for recreation.
2. **No fighting allowed.** Fistfights, hurtful comments, jokes at other people's expense, etc. have no place in Scouting. Loud arguments and shouting matches only lead to more trouble. Fistfights never resolve the problem and are simply not allowed in Troop 911. Suspension is the minimum consequence.
3. **No Hazing.** See the separate Hazing policy. We consider the Scout Troop to be a 'safe place'.
4. **Respect the property of others.** 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. This type of behavior is nothing more than crude attempt at "having fun" at someone else's expense. Remember, it hurts to be on the receiving end. This type of behavior usually leads to arguments, fights and punishment.
5. **Never leave the campsite, Troop meeting or any Scouting event without telling the adult in charge where you plan to go.** Your Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters need to know where you are at all times. If a Scout needs to leave a meeting early, make sure the Scoutmaster knows and ask permission to leave before the closing. **Never venture off alone.** In Scouting we use the buddy system for safety reasons. Read your Scout handbook for more information.
6. **Tote'n Chips are required to use woods tools including a pocketknife.** We have an excellent safety record with knives, saws, hatchets and axes. Unsafe use of woods tools will result in confiscation of the tools (particularly pocketknives) or restriction from the wood yard. No sheath knives are allowed. The only knives allowed are of the Swiss Army pocketknife variety with blades **less** than 4 inches long. Any knife deemed unacceptable will be confiscated. The Scoutmaster's word is absolutely final in this area.
7. **Fire safety rules will be enforced at all times.** We don't allow Scouts to play in the fire or wave burning sticks in the air. The use of campfires is at the discretion of leaders. Fires will be placed only in designated locations. Additionally, Scouts are not allowed to bring matches, lighters or other fire starting equipment to Troop functions. Candles, incense, lanterns, etc. are also not allowed. The only matches and lighters that will be used will be issued by the Troop and used under adult supervision.
8. **Combustible materials** such as aerosol sprays, lighter fluid, charcoal lighter, are not allowed on any Scout function. Be sure to use insect repellent and deodorant in the form of a cream, stick, or pump spray.
9. **Fireworks of any kind are not allowed.** The penalty for bringing fireworks to Raven Knob is suspension from the camp for a whole year. Additionally, a Troop suspension for **at least** 30 days and the next Scheduled outing. Remember, it's not worth it!
10. **Lanterns and stoves** that are owned by the Troop will be used under adult supervision. Scouts should not bring their own gas/propane lanterns and stoves on trips.
11. **This Troop practices the principals of the Leave no Trace policy.** We spend a lot of time in backcountry areas and appreciate the undisturbed state we find them in. It is our duty to minimize the impact we have on the environment.
12. **We don't throw rocks or other objects** as a general rule. Throwing rocks is a quick way to get into trouble with the Scoutmaster.

13. **Shoes are to be worn** at all times, except while swimming or sleeping. Open toe shoes like sandals are not allowed. This is especially true on our Camping trips and at Summer Camp.
14. **No running in the campsite**. There are always all kinds of things to trip over in a campsite, running just compounds the problem.
15. **Damage to tents**: Any behavior that results in damage to tents will result in the guilty party replacing the tent or paying for its repair. The retail price of our tents is \$145 to \$200. Additionally, each tent will be inspected during takedown for trash, candy and damage. The Scouts using the tent will be held responsible for its condition.
16. **CD players, portable TV's, radios, portable games, etc.** should be left at home. The Troop accepts no responsibility for the safety of these items. Personal CD players and radios, with headphones, are allowed during travel to and from an event, however, these items must be left in the car or van during the event. If a Scout chooses to bring one of these items to use during the travel **he does so at his own risk!**
17. **Lying**: This type of behavior is inconsistent with the goals and ideals of Scouting and will not be tolerated.
18. **Off Limit Areas**:
  - Certain areas of the church are designated as off limits to keep our relationship with Burkhead UMC positive. Remember we are guests using the facilities and we must respect their property and wishes at all times.
  - The fenced-in playground at Burkhead Church is off limits to our Scouts at all times. The equipment was designed for young children.
  - The Church roof has just been replaced. If a ball or other item lands on the roof, notify the Scoutmaster. Do not go on the roof! The item will be retrieved by the Church maintenance staff and returned to you the next week. No Exception – if found on the roof the Scout will be sent home immediately and a conference scheduled with his Parents, the Scoutmaster and the Church Minister before allowed to attend another meeting.
  - During Troop functions, Scouts must stay in the Scout room, adjacent hallway and bathroom. Scouts are not allowed to go to the Fellowship Hall without Adult supervision.
  - The Kitchen, Children's Education wing and hallway, Sanctuary and Narthex are off limits – No Exceptions. Any Scout seen in these areas will immediately have a conference with the Scoutmaster and his parents will be called. Any second offence will result in being sent home immediately and a conference scheduled with his Parents, the Scoutmaster and the Church Minister before he is allowed to attend another meeting.
19. **When in doubt, let the Scout Oath and Scout Law be your guide.**

**These policies will be enforced by:**

- A. Confiscating the item (as appropriate).
- B. Payment to repair/replace damaged property.
- C. A Scoutmaster Conference with the Scout and/or Parents, Church Minister.
- D. Potential suspension from the Troop for 30 days or more (depending on the severity of the violation and the safety hazard caused). The 30 day suspension will include the next Troop weekend outing.
- E. Potential loss of leadership positions or declared ineligible for election or appointment to a leadership post.
- F. Potential failure of the "demonstrates Scout spirit," requirement for rank advancements.
- G. Potential expulsion from the Troop.

**Parents** - your help is needed in enforcing these policies. It is impractical for the adult leaders to search each Scout's gear before each trip. You need to check your Scout's gear as he packs or before he leaves to make sure these policies are followed for the safety and well being of your son and the entire Troop.