



## **Troop 33**

### **Conduct and Discipline Policy**

**October 11, 2016**

#### **Scout Conduct:**

Good behavior is essential to any program and will be strongly supported by Troop 33's youth leaders (scouts) and adult leaders. Good behavior is a primary element of showing Scout Spirit, and is a requirement for advancement. Troop 33's level of authority is as follows:

#### **Troop Committee**

**Scoutmaster / Assistant Scoutmaster**

**Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)**

**Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)**

**Patrol Leader (PL)**

**Assistant Patrol Leader (APL)**

In each instance, the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or any adult will have the final authority. The purpose of the authority structure is not to remove authority from the scouts, but to augment and uphold their responsibility. It is not to be construed as bossing other Scouts around or making some Scouts do more than their fair share. However, fellow Scouts must recognize this structure and be willing to participate and assist others as requested.

Scouts will not participate in any activity that could be considered dangerous to their fellow Scouts. These include but are not limited to bullying, hazing, harassing, abuse of fire or flammable materials, or abuse of sharp instruments.

Scouts will conduct themselves properly during all Troop 33 activities. If the behavior isn't allowed at school or church, it's not acceptable behavior. During all meetings and activities, when the Scout sign is held up, all Scouts and adults shall immediately cease talk and movement, and display the same sign.

The Scout Field Uniform (Class A) is to be worn at all Troop 33 events, unless otherwise instructed. In that instance, Scouts may then wear the Troop 33 or BSA approved (Class B) tee shirt. Scouts must wear their uniforms in a manner that will reflect credit upon themselves, the Troop, the Chartered Organization, and BSA. This means: Clean, neat, tucked-in, buttoned, and with appropriate insignia.

During the patrol activity session of the troop meetings, Scouts will be with their assigned patrol unless otherwise permitted by their PL. It is necessary for the PL to know the whereabouts of his Scouts.

Visitors are always welcome to attend troop meetings; however, approval from the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters is required one week prior to the meeting.

**No Scout will leave the campsite without the permission of the Adult Leader, PL or his designate.** PLs will get permission from the SPL in order to leave the area. Disciplinary problems on campouts and activities will not be tolerated. Scouts who cannot behave themselves will be sent home.

**Buddy System:**

Scouts will follow BSA's Buddy System whenever appropriate. Examples include hiking, water activities, whenever a Scout is to go beyond visual range of a campsite, instances where Scouts are interacting with large groups of people not known by the troop, and whenever the Scoutmaster or Adult in charge declares the Buddy System is in effect.

**Discipline:**

General: The approach to discipline in Scouting is simple and the doors of Scouting are always open to those who strive to follow the ideals of Scouting. Adherence to the ***Troop 33 Conduct and Discipline Policy*** is required to maintain safety, preclude property damage, and avoid disrupting other organizations activities.

**Obedience:** Obedience in Troop 33 means to follow the *Scout Oath* and the *Scout Law*. The *Oath* and *Law* make being a good citizen of the troop, camp, or community possible. Obedience to the Scout Law includes respect for Scout (youth) leaders and adult leaders and all members and guests of the troop. Respect for adult and Scout leadership is expected. Under **NO** circumstances will adult or Scout Leaders administer physical punishment for any reason. Bullying or hazing, of any type, will not be tolerated. Scouts or adults observing such activity will take immediate measures to stop such activity.

**Enforcing Discipline:**

1. Scout leaders (SPL, ASPL, PL) are responsible for maintaining troop discipline.

2. Discipline in patrols will be handled by the PLs. PLs have the authority to ask any patrol member to behave and/or leave a patrol meeting and report to the SPL. The Scoutmaster must be notified of actions taken.

3. When the PL cannot handle the problem, he must obtain help from the SPL. The SPL has the authority to ask a Scout to leave the meeting area and report to the Scoutmaster.

4. When the SPL cannot handle the problem, he must obtain the help of the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster.

5. When the Scoutmaster determines that a Scout requires discipline, the following actions are taken (Note: All instances will be documented):

a. First Instance – Conference with the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster. All such conferences should be attended by an appropriate Boy Scout Leader and by another adult leader. Parents will be notified via email.

b. Second Instance – Conference with the Scoutmaster and a phone call to parents explaining the problem and stating that one more complaint may result in suspension for a period of time established by the severity of the offense. A written explanation of the offense will also be prepared to back-up the phone call. One copy will be given to the parents, another to the Troop Committee Chair (in case further action is necessary). Parents may be requested to attend meetings to help supervise their Scout. The Scout may be assigned to appear before a board of Committee members or the Patrol Leader Council (PLC) as a lesser disciplinary action prior to suspension from troop activities.

c. Third Instance – Conference with the Scoutmaster, Committee Chair, and parents. Based on the Scoutmaster's recommendation, the Scout may be suspended from all Troop activities for a period of time as established by the Scoutmaster.

**d. Fourth Instance** – The issue is referred to the full Troop Committee by the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair with a recommendation of action and the circumstances for the referral. The Troop Committee may proceed immediately with any level of discipline without conducting previous lower levels of discipline, if the Committee deems the severity of the circumstances warrant such action.

**e.** At any point, Aloha Council may be contacted for further clarification on how to deal with any specific issue within the Troop.

**6.** The above steps are not meant to discourage either the PL or SPL from seeking advice from the Scoutmaster or any adult leader when they are having leadership challenges, but are intended to set forth discipline options in advance.

**7.** In extreme cases, a Scout may be recommended for dismissal from the Troop. This action means that only by agreement from the Troop Committee will the Scout be permitted to return to the troop. Dismissal will only be carried out by the Troop Committee. In the case of a dismissal, a letter to the Scout's parents will be sent outlining the reasons for the dismissal and the alternatives for returning to the troop.

**8.** If a Scout is disruptive during any event (meeting, camping trip, day trip, etc.) and it is determined by the adult leader of the event that the Scout's continued presence will continue to be disruptive, the parents of the scout will be called (anytime; day or night) to take their Scout home.

**9.** If a Scout feels he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline by another scout, he may seek help from the SPL. A Scout who feels that he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline by the SPL may seek help from the Scoutmaster, and a Scout who feels that he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline by the Scoutmaster may seek help from the Troop Committee Chair.

#### **Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco:**

No Scout shall use, possess, and/or distribute tobacco or any controlled substance (drugs and alcohol). A Scout found to have used, possessed, or distributed a controlled substance at a Scouting function will be subject to immediate disciplinary action. Parents of Scouts who must take prescription medication during the course of a troop event are required to present the prescription medications, before the event, to the adult in charge of event, along with instructions indicating medication type, dose, frequency and emergency contact information. Serious medical requirements may require a parent to attend an event and administer medication.

#### **Fighting:**

Fighting is not permitted and is grounds for immediate disciplinary action. Parents will be called and asked to take their Scout home.

#### **Language and Respect:**

Foul language, swearing, cursing and abusive/suggestive/offensive gestures are not in keeping with the ideals of Scouting and will not be allowed. A Scout is *Reverent, Courteous, and Clean*. Disrespectful language to any Scout or to any adult is not allowed.

#### **Adult Leader Conduct:**

Adult leaders shall exhibit the ideals of Scouting when working with the Scouts. They will strive to set a good example in their handling of all situations. Standards of conduct in personal habits, language, hygiene, and interaction with Scouts will be in accordance with the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. The Committee Chair is responsible for the conduct of adult leaders. Conduct befitting a Scout is expected of adult participants as well.



## Troop 33 Conduct & Discipline Policy Agreement

The Scout and both parents/guardians (unless the Scout is living with a single, separated, or widowed parent/guardian) must sign the page below and return it to the Troop Committee. Full agreement to the *Troop 33 Conduct and Discipline Policy*, legible signing, and returning of this sheet are a condition of registration and participation in Troop 33.

Scout Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian #1 Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian #2 Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_