

# BSA Troop 3, Monroe Township, NJ

## Guidelines for Handling Scout Misbehavior

### Introduction

In order to promote the best aspects of Scouting during Troop events, the leadership of Troop 3 has implemented an official policy on handling Scout misbehavior.

Our rationale for implementing this policy is as follows:

- To provide for the safety, well-being, and fun for all Troop members.
- To provide security for all indoor and outdoor Troop facilities.
- To ensure that all Troop activities are carried out in the spirit of all elements of the Scout Law.
- To allow for Troop leadership to do everything possible to encourage the success of each Scout and to maintain their interest in Scouting.

### Scope

This policy applies to all Troop members, visiting Scouts, and prospective members.

### Misbehavior and Discipline Policy

This policy encourages positive behavior consistent with the Scout Oath and Scout Law. This allows for a safe environment for boys, free from verbal and physical abuse and harassment. Any Scout who knowingly or intentionally behaves in a way that could cause harm to himself or to other Troop members, damage public or private property, or reflect negatively upon Troop 3 or the BSA will be disciplined.

- All Scouts should behave in a manner consistent with the Scout Oath and Law. Misbehavior during any Scout/Troop activity (e.g. meetings, campouts, service projects) which is cause for disciplinary action as outlined in this document includes, but is not limited to, the following examples:
  - Failure to follow the Scoutmaster's or other Adult Leader's direction.
  - Unsafe actions, as determined by the Scoutmaster or other Adult Leader.
  - Leaving designated areas without the Scoutmaster's or other Adult Leader's permission, such as:
    - Not telling the Scoutmaster or other Adult Leader of their whereabouts at all times.
    - Going to an area other than that requested.
    - Entering property marked "NO TRESPASSING".
    - Exploring physical hazards without Scoutmaster's or other Adult Leader's permission and supervision (e.g. lakes, creeks, cliffs, caves or underground areas, boats).
    - Going near any type of vehicle, machinery, or equipment without the permission of the Scoutmaster or other Adult Leader.
  - Excessive rowdy, unruly, loud, disrespectful, disobedient, or disruptive misbehavior.
  - Use of cursing or foul language.
  - Exhibiting a pattern of poor attitude or disruptive misbehavior that is affecting the normal activities of the Troop.

### Procedures

- The Misbehavior and Discipline Policy is a "three strikes" system. Misbehaviors that result in "strikes" are described above.
- A "Serious Offense" will be punished upon first offense and without a warning. This is outlined in the Troop Bylaws.
- In the event a Scout Leader needs to discipline a Scout, the Leader will give the Scout two separate warnings and explain exactly what conduct must be corrected by the Scout.
- If a third warning is required over the next 30 days, the Leader in charge will discuss the infraction with the Scout at the time of the violation, reminding him of the Misbehavior and Discipline Policy and Procedures. ***This constitutes his First Strike.***
  - If a parent becomes aware of a possible discipline problem, it is the parent's responsibility to inform the Scoutmaster of the situation. The Scoutmaster will investigate, and if the Scoutmaster

Scout Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

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finds provable facts of infractions the Scoutmaster will follow the procedures set forth in this document. This may be considered a **First Strike** depending on the severity of the infraction.

- On the **First Strike** the following steps will be taken:
  - The Scoutmaster or other Adult Leader in charge will meet with the Scout to discuss the discipline problems and inform him that the specific misbehavior will not be tolerated. A copy of this document will be provided to the Scout and the parent(s) or guardian(s) for their signatures in order to ensure they are familiar with the policy.
  - Any Scout receiving discipline for a **First Strike** will be given a probationary period for the next four Troop meetings, including any Scout event that falls within that timeframe.
  - If the Scout has no further incidents during the probationary period, the **First Strike** will be removed from his record.
- If another incident occurs during the probationary period, it will be treated as a **Second Strike**.
- On the **Second Strike**, the following steps will be taken:
  - The Scoutmaster or other Adult Leader will meet with the Scout and the parent(s) or guardian(s) to discuss the discipline problems and to inform them that the specific misbehavior will not be tolerated.
  - Any Scout receiving discipline for a **Second Strike** will be placed on suspension for the next four Troop meetings. While on suspension, a Scout will not participate in any Scout activities and will not accrue leadership time or be eligible for advancement. Any non-refundable fees paid by the Scout for activities occurring during the suspension will not be reimbursed.
  - The Troop Committee Chair will be notified in writing by the Scoutmaster or Adult Leader in charge, and given all the details.
  - At the end of the suspension period, the parent(s) or guardian(s) will then be required to attend the next four Troop meetings (including any Scout event that falls within that timeframe) with their Scout for a probationary period, in order for the Scout to participate.
  - The Committee Chair will meet with the Scout's parents/guardians to ensure that they are aware of the severity of a **Second Strike** violation and that the next incident may result in the Scout leaving the Troop.
  - If the Scout has no further incidents during the suspension and probationary periods, all **Strikes** will be removed from his record.
- In the event that another incident occurs during the suspension and/or probationary periods, it will be treated as a **Third Strike**, and no consideration for probation will be allowed.
- On the **Third Strike**, the following steps will be taken:
  - Notification follows the same pattern as above.
  - The parent(s) or guardian(s) will be requested to remove the Scout from Troop 3. Any non-refundable fees paid by the Scout for activities occurring after removal will not be reimbursed

### Reporting

- Discipline actions taken in accordance with this policy will be reported as indicated.
- Every effort will be taken to maintain the confidentiality of the persons involved.
- The aim of this policy, when invoked, is to reach out to the Scout and provide him with guidance on how he can improve and become a better Scout. Extra attention will be accorded these Scouts to insure they are given every chance to succeed at Scout activities.

Thank you for your help in enforcing this policy. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Scoutmaster or Committee Chair.

Scout Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date