

## ***Troop 223 Code of Conduct***

2017 Edition

### **Policy**

Scouts are required to attend and be prompt to all scheduled meetings and activities. Scouts are to maintain good behavior and follow the Code of Conduct. Scouts not following the Code of Conduct may, at the discretion of the Troop's Leadership, be asked to leave the meeting or activity and/or have their parents or guardians pick up the Scout from the meeting or activity. The Scout will be welcomed back at the next meeting or activity unless otherwise specified. Violations of the Code of Conduct are subject to review by the Troop's Committee and Leadership.

All Scouts who would like to be members of BSA Troop 223 must sign the Troop 223 Code of Conduct. This is not optional. It is our definition of Scout Spirit. "Scout Spirit" is living the Scout Law. A Scout's 'spirit' is a key requirement for advancement within the Boy Scout program. It is reviewed and evaluated during each Board of Review. If a scout is demonstrating good Scout Spirit then he will be considered in 'good standing.' Thus he will be eligible for rank advancement. If a scout is not demonstrating good Scout Spirit he will not be eligible for rank advancement. A critical and necessary component in gauging scout spirit is attendance. It is not possible for a scout to embrace the Troop's program or be an effective leader (required for higher ranks) if their presence is significantly limited at program events. Program events include but are not limited to Troop Meetings, Patrol Meetings, Volunteer Events, Eagle Project participation, Camping trips. Troop 223 requests a 50% program participation rate. Without Scoutmaster recognition, a scout may not advance to their next rank (in particular Eagle) if they have not maintained an acceptable rate of participation; one which can effectively reflect "Scout Spirit."

The parents/guardians of each Scout must also sign the Troop 223 Code of Conduct, verifying that they have read and understand what it entails. A parent's/guardian's signature also signifies that they have read and understand the Troop's By-Laws.

## **Principles**

The Code of Conduct for members of the Troop, Scouts, and Scouters is the **Boy Scout Law**:

1. **Trustworthy:** Besides telling the truth, dependability is just as important in your relationship with your fellow Scouts and Scout Leaders.
2. **Loyal:** The Troop is a family in the community of Scouting and other troops are extensions of our family, they deserve to be treated as family. A Scout's word is as good as his handshake; trust and fulfillment are valuable traits.
3. **Helpful:** New Scouts look to older Scouts as role models; you should be generous with your skills and be aware of your behavior. Younger Scouts also need to be aware of their responsibilities, behavior and respect to those of higher rank.
4. **Friendly:** All Scouts are part of the brotherhood, and appreciation of different customs and styles of behavior or dress are part of being friendly.
5. **Courteous:** Good manners are minimum standards and make social interactions work with all types of people. The Scout shall endeavor to be punctual and respect others value of time.
6. **Kind:** No Scout should let looks or personality be a major influence in how they act with fellow human beings. Doing a good turn may also mean treating others as you would want to be treated.
7. **Obedient:** Scout Laws and community laws have the same goal and that is to prevent chaos while minimizing limitation of freedoms. Whether a law is good or bad does not change the law.
8. **Cheerful:** "Cheerful Service" is the motto of the *Order of the Arrow*, but should be a guideline for all of us. Requests from your adult or youth leadership should not be answered with looks of anger or disgust. The family has to function together and bothersome tasks happen to all of us.
9. **Thrifty:** Besides money, natural resources have to be conserved; besides these, time and property should be used with the realization that they are not endless.
10. **Brave:** Part of being Scout-like is having courage regarding personal convictions while not being reckless or having a mindless macho approach in your relationship with others.
11. **Clean:** A Scout keeps his mind and body fit and clean, and associates with others who believe in these same ideals. A Scout is expected to leave for camp or arrive for troop functions with clean clothes and clean body. Abusive or foul language is inappropriate to the Scouting movement and disrespectful to others, as are racial slurs, ridicule and insults.
12. **Reverent:** A Scout is respectful of all religions and faiths, and is faithful in his own religious duties.

## **General Behavior**

There will be no threatening behavior, no physical contact or offensive touching, such as pushing, shoving, punching, tripping, hitting, striking or general horseplay. The Troop also maintains a strict NO-SMOKING policies as well as a strict adherence to all BSA guidelines relative to substance abuse and the use of weapons of any sort. Any offenses in regard to the above will be dealt with in a strict manner. In short, this type of activity will not be tolerated. Parents are requested to make sure the boys are clearly aware of this policy.

Furthermore, there will be zero tolerance for any disrespect toward any adult, leaders or parents. The Troop leadership is all volunteers, and our time is as valuable as the next person's. Therefore, none of that valuable commodity will spent correcting for bad manners or poor and unreasonable behavior. The simple correction will be the termination of the Scout's membership in Troop 223.

## **Violations**

### **First Offense:**

Scout will be dismissed from meeting or activity at the discretion of the activity leader and a parent/guardian will be notified and asked to come pick the Scout up. Note: This will include **all** trips, potentially a substantial distance from East Brunswick.

### **Second Offense:**

Scout will be dismissed from meeting or activity **ONLY** to be reinstated after a meeting with the Scout Troop Committee, including the Scoutmaster, the activity Leader, the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the Scout. Final Decision will be made by a majority vote of the Scout Troop Committee present.

### **Third Offense:**

There is the potential that a Scout's behavior may be so bad that it is enough to cause more than one offense from one occurrence, thus necessitating the application of second or third offense disciplines from the onset. *Suspension and/or termination of Troop membership by recommendation of the Scoutmaster and the Scout Troop Leadership.*

**Signature Page**

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Please return this completed page to the Troop's Scoutmaster. Keep the rest of the Code of Conduct and Troop By-Laws for your reference.

I have read and agree to abide by the Troop 223's Code of Conduct and By-Laws, Version 4.0 Last edited 2017:

Scout Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Scout Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent's Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Or Guardian

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Or Guardian

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

Troop 223 Official Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Troop 223 Official Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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