

Kings Park Troop 539

Scoutmaster: Joe Reid

Committee Chair: Mark Pohlmann

Scout Code of Conduct, Behavior and Discipline Policy

Introduction:

Boy Scouts of America (BSA) offers a unique and well-designed program which is based on the creation of an environment within which young boys can develop into responsible young men based on "living" the Boy Scout Oath and Boy Scout Law. The mission of the BSA is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the scout oath and law. The Adults Leaders (Scoutmasters and the Troop Committee) of *Kings Park Troop 539* recognize that to create a healthy environment for all there is a need to maintain and improve communications related to behavioral expectations and counseling.

Purpose and Goals:

The BSA has two "sets of ideals" which govern the conduct of any Scout.

These are the SCOUT OATH and the SCOUT LAW. When a boy becomes a Scout, he promises to try and live by these ideals. A list of rules and regulations would do nothing more than repeat what is already contained in the Scout Oath and Law. Every Scout in *Troop 539* is expected to behave according to the Scout Oath and the Scout Law.

Boy Scout Oath or Promise

On my honor, I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

Boy Scout Law

A Scout is: Trustworthy. Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient.
Cheerful, Thrifty. Brave. Clean, and Reverent.

The Goals of *Troop 539* Scouting are to create a healthy environment in which:

1. Each Scout learns and grows as an individual,
2. Each Scout exhibits a commitment to the entire Troop by following the Scout Oath and Law.
Openness of expression is encouraged within the boundaries of concern and courtesy, Failures are turned into successes.

To do this, Adult and Youth Leaders work with all Scouts in meetings and activities to promote the purpose of scouting while having fun, advancing in scout rank and developing leadership ability.

Boy Scouts, worldwide, are thought of as courteous and self-disciplined. When a Scout does not live up to this standard he discredits the name of all good Scouts as well as his own. Therefore, an understanding of what is courteous and self-disciplined behavior and the consequences associated with not meeting these expectations must be understood and acknowledged by the members of this Troop. Without courtesy and self-discipline Scouting cannot be a rewarding experience. Furthermore, parents play a vitally important role by acting as a team with adult leaders to help each Scout reach their full potential as it relates to demonstrating the self-discipline to take advantage of the opportunities Boy Scouting offers young men today.

In order to accomplish our purpose and goals, there are basic standards that should be followed by each Scout at all times. A Scout should be true to the traditions of Scouting. The three duties of the Scout Oath and the twelve points of the Scout Law shall guide a Scout's behavior and the foundation of his self-discipline. The following are examples to show these ideals in practice:

A Scout shows courtesy and respect to others in word and deed,
A Scout plays games fairly, by the rules,
A Scout helps others,
A Scout respects the property of others,
A Scout follows the instructions of youth and adult leaders,
A Scout stands tall and proud for the Pledge of Allegiance,
A Scout wears his uniform properly (Class "A" with shirt tucked in).

CODE OF CONDUCT

- Each Scout will do their best and cooperate with the Scout Leadership of the troop.
- Each Scout will have respect for one another as well as the personal property of each member and adult leader.
- Harassment of others during any Scout function will not be tolerated and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.
- Fighting, pushing and hitting with a foreign object are not permitted and are grounds for immediate disciplinary action.
- Sexually explicit material shall not be brought on any Scout activity.
- Gambling is not permitted.
- Foul language and abusive/suggestive gestures are not permitted. A Scout is Reverent, Courteous and Clean.
- Alcohol, Illegal Drugs, Narcotics or paraphernalia, tobacco, fireworks, firearms, slingshots and bows and arrows are not permitted on any Scout activity. (Only BSA approved Knives and bows and arrows made at Scout camp are allowed)
- Electronic devices such as hand held games and cell phones are allowed in the vehicles traveling to and from Scout outings but are not allowed during campouts or meetings.

EXPECTATIONS:

1. **Put the sign up when called for and stop talking and listen to the instructions.**
2. **Participate in meetings.**
3. **Pay attention during instructional sessions, merit badge classes and campouts.**
4. **Participate in patrol activities.**
5. **Be active in your patrol and attend campouts, patrol meetings and regularly scheduled meetings.**
6. **Pursue a leadership position.**
7. **Be in uniform when at a Scout meeting, campout or event. (Class A uniforms at all meetings and Traveling to and from campouts. Instructions will be given when class B's are permitted) only BSA hats, caps or neckerchiefs are permitted while in uniform.**

Note:

From time to time special needs Scouts will need extra attention and supervision to accomplish their individual goals. Troop 539 is committed to making the Scouting experience a success for these young men. Please see the Scoutmaster if there are any special needs your son may have.

CONSEQUENCES:

Initial actions can be brought by Scoutmasters, Troop Committee members, Youth leaders and parents, to initiate counseling or disciplining a Scout. These actions may include:

***Instruction** - A request to stop or change one's behavior or actions because they are not acceptable for the current activity, or deemed unsafe.

***Warning** - Disregard of instructions will put the Scout on notice that a recurrence of the discourtesy or lack of self-

discipline will result in a Scoutmaster Conference or a Behavioral Board of Review. Parents will be notified when a Scout has been warned.

***Removal** - Misbehavior during Camping or other Troop events may, at the decision of a BSA trained scoutmaster or a BSA trained assistant scoutmaster, result in contacting the scout's parent for immediate pick up from any troop function. As a result, a Scoutmaster Conference will be held and the Scoutmaster will notify the Troop Committee.

Counseling:

Scoutmaster Conference: The Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster will counsel a Scout who continues to disregard instructions and warnings that his behavior is unacceptable to the principles of Scouting and the leaders of his Troop. The Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster will try to reach an understanding with the Scout as to why the Scout's behavior is unacceptable and receive a commitment from him to change his behavior. A written understanding of the agreement between the Scout and the Scoutmaster may be signed by both parties and sent home with the Scout for parental review and signature. If a Scout's behavior continues to contradict the Scout Oath and Scout Law, then the Troop Committee Chair and the Scoutmaster together will make a second attempt to reach an understanding in a conference with the Scout. A written understanding may be signed by all at the conference and sent home with the Scout for parental review and signature.

Behavior Counseling Review: Scouts, who are continually in need of counseling by Scoutmasters, appear unwilling to terminate discourtesy or inappropriate behavior, or engage in an incident of unsafe behavior toward others will sit before a Behavior Board of Review. Depending on the behavioral history and attitude of the Scout, the Board will make a decision on the Scout's continued participation in Troop activities. Options available to the Board include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Define a course of action and a time period in which the Scout must demonstrate the desired behavior. The scout will not be able to meet the scout spirit requirement for rank advancement during the defined period.
2. Require a parent to accompany the Scout at Troop activities, meetings, campouts, etc.
3. Suspend the Scout from future Troop activities, such as campouts or meetings.
4. Dismissal of the Scout from the Troop.

Parent Roles and Responsibilities and Understanding:

- 1) Troop 539 requires completion of Youth Protection Training for all adults attending outings or camping trips.
- 2) READ all information from scouts, Adult Leaders and Youth
- 3) POST the activities Calendar (available in September of each year) in a prominent place in your home and make the activities a priority for your family activity planning.
- 4) Realize that to miss an activity will begin to diminish the interest in the Scouting program and affect the operation of each scout's patrol and the troop.
- 5) Feel free to participate in troop meetings, outings and to join the ranks of adult leadership in our troop. This may be the best opportunity you will ever have to spend quality time with your boy(s).
- 6) Allow photographs and first names of your son(s) to be posted to the troop website.
- 7) Read and understand the Parents Guide posted on the troop's website (www.troop539kingspark.org) or distributed elsewhere.
- 8) Fully support the Scoutmasters in the enforcement of all of the aforementioned procedures.

**TROOP 539 Kings Park New York
CODE OF CONDUCT, BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE POLICY**

We have read this document completely, have together discussed it and understand it, and will abide by the rules.

Return this page to the Scoutmaster

Scout Name (print)

Scout Signature

Date

Parent Name (print)

Parent Signature

Date

We affirm and acknowledge that the Troop 539 Scout Code of Conduct, Behavior and Discipline Policy is made available to me, that we have read it in its entirety; we understand it and will continue to abide by its rules.

Scout Signature

Parent Signature

Date

Scout Signature

Parent Signature

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