

Safety Moment – Code of Conduct

SUMMARY

As we begin this new Scouting year, we wanted you to know that the Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America support the establishment of codes of conduct. Some examples include the Scout Executive's Code and camp staff codes of conduct. One of the latest is the Scouter Code of Conduct, which was published in October 2015. This is similar to the 2013 National Scout Jamboree requirement for adults and staff of that event.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please know that the Boy Scouts of America expects Scouters to follow the Scout Oath and Scout Law as well as other laws and regulations from local, state, and federal governments.

The Scouter Code of Conduct should be reviewed and signed by all adult leaders, unit committee members, and parents. This code of conduct

- Provides a checklist of expectations for all adults involved in Scouting.
- Emphasizes the need for all adults to follow the BSA's Youth Protection policies and guidelines.
- Highlights the need for adult leaders to be familiar with the *Guide to Safe Scouting* and the Sweet Sixteen of Scouting Safety.
- States that drivers will obey all laws and follow safe driving practices when transporting Scouts.
- Sets expectations regarding the BSA Rules and Regulations, policies, and BSA-provided training.
- Helps adults to model behaviors for all youth involved in BSA activities.
- Emphasizes a leader's responsibility to notify the appropriate person(s) if a violation occurs.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA SCOUTER CODE OF CONDUCT

On my honor, I promise to do my best to comply with this Boy Scouts of America Scouter Code of Conduct while serving in my capacity as an adult leader:

1. I have completed or will complete my registration with the Boy Scouts of America, answering all questions truthfully and honestly.

2. I will do my best to live up to the Scout Oath and Scout Law, obey all laws, and hold others in Scouting accountable to those standards. I will exercise sound judgment and demonstrate good leadership and use the Scouting program for its intended purpose consistent with the mission of the Boy Scouts of America.

3. I will make the protection of youth a personal priority. I will complete and remain current with Youth Protection training requirements. I will be familiar with and follow:

a. BSA Youth Protection policies and guidelines, including mandatory reporting:

www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/

- b. *The Guide to Safe Scouting:* www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss
- c. The Sweet Sixteen of BSA Safety: www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/sweet16

4. When transporting Scouts, I will obey all laws, comply with Youth Protection guidelines, and follow safe driving practices.

5. I will respect and abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America, BSA policies, and BSA-provided training, including but not limited to those relating to:

- a. Unauthorized fundraising activities
- b. Advocacy on social and political issues, including prohibited use of the BSA uniform and brand
- c. Bullying, hazing, harassment, and unlawful discrimination of any kind

6. I will not discuss or engage in any form of sexual conduct while engaged in Scouting activities. I will refer Scouts with questions regarding these topics to talk to their parents or spiritual advisor.

7. I confirm that I have fully disclosed and will disclose in the future any of the following:

- a. Any criminal suspicion, charges, or convictions of a crime or offense involving abuse, violence, sexual misconduct, or any misconduct involving minors or juveniles
- b. Any investigation or court order involving domestic violence, child abuse, or similar matter
- c. Any criminal charges or convictions for offenses involving controlled substances, driving while intoxicated, firearms, or dangerous weapons

8. I will not possess, distribute, transport, consume, or use any of the following items prohibited by law or in violation of any Scouting rules, regulations, and policies:

- a. Alcoholic beverages or controlled substances, including marijuana
- b. Concealed or unconcealed firearms, fireworks, or explosives
- c. Pornography or materials containing words or images inconsistent with Scouting values

9. If I am taking prescription medications with the potential of impairing my functioning or judgment, I will not engage in activities that would put Scouts at risk, including driving or operating equipment.

10. I will take steps to prevent or report any violation of this code of conduct by others in connection with Scouting activities.