

Troop 351
Information for Parents and Scouts

Troop Code of Conduct

Community Service

Troop 351 is a community service organization. In addition to being required for rank advancement, Scouts should recognize that part of being a good citizen includes an obligation to contribute to the community. We support a community food bank in partnership with our chartering organization, St. John's Lutheran Church, and we support other community service activities throughout the year. Scouts are expected to participate in these activities and parents/guardians and other family members are encouraged to participate as well.

Parental Support

As an all-volunteer organization, parental support is essential for a successful Scouting program. Driving Scouts to meetings, trips, and other activities is just a start. You can help by joining the Troop Committee or becoming a Uniformed Leader, organizing trips and activities, helping to set up and take down or serve refreshments at events, organizing or assisting at community service projects, assisting with the Troop's internal and external communications, and much more. Any skill you have in business or at home probably can help the Troop. Everyone is needed – and expected – to pitch in.

Fundraising

Fundraising supports the activities of the Troop. The Troop's primary fundraising activity is an annual popcorn sale, which is endorsed by the Theodore Roosevelt Council. Just over one-third of all gross sales are returned to the Troop to fund our programs. The popcorn sale is designed to be a fun activity for the Scouts, and in the spirit of friendly competition, prizes are awarded to the top popcorn sellers.

Based on projected activity expenses, each Scout is expected to sell a minimum of \$150. Scouts who do not sell any popcorn will be required to contribute \$150 to the Troop. PLEASE NOTE: No registered Scout of Troop 351 will be denied the opportunity to participate in the Troop's activities because of financial hardship; a parent/guardian should contact the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chairperson for assistance. Lastly, be advised that this rule may be changed as the committee and troop decide on various fundraising ideas. Changes will be communicated through text and a follow up email.

Rules for Meetings, Trips, and Other Activities

Troop 351 maintains a strong tradition of camping out and participating in other outdoor and indoor activities. For the benefit of all, members must follow these activity rules:

- All Scouts must have a full Class A uniform with all numbers, patches, and emblems properly attached (see the inside covers of the Scout Handbook for information). Scouts will be notified when activities require a Class A or Class B uniform. Scouts must wear their complete up to date Class A uniforms for all Scoutmaster Conferences, Boards of Review and Courts of Honor. Scouts may wear Class B uniforms for regular Troop meetings unless otherwise notified.
- Scouts are expected to be on time for all activities, including the start of Troop meetings and for trip departures. In the event a scout or adult arrives during the flag ceremony, they are requested to stand in the back of the room until the flag ceremony is over and the “At-Ease” command is given
- Scouts who will arrive late, or who cannot attend a meeting or other scheduled activity for a valid reason (such as illness or injury, or a school, sports, religious, or family activity) may be excused if they inform a member of the youth Leadership Corps (SPL, ASPL, PL) or a Uniformed Leader (SM, ASM, JASM) before the start of the scheduled activity. Scouts who notify will be marked excused; Scouts who fail to notify will be marked absent. Because the Scouting experience requires participation in Troop activities, chronic lateness and excessive absences can be grounds for holding back a Scout from rank advancement.
- All outings include a Friday departure option. Troop 351 truly values the outing experience and takes advantage of the opportunity to camp an extra night. This also provides scouts an extra night of tent camping which is required for Camping merit badge. However it is understood if a scout and or parent cannot attend Friday evening due to work or family obligations.
- Scouts that have a commitment the same time as an scheduled outing, may attend that outing as long as they arrive to the troop campsite no later than Saturday, 12 noon. Any scout that arrives in this fashion cannot leave early on Sunday and must depart with the rest of the troop. Other scouts wishing to leave early on Sunday will need permission from the adult leader in charge.
- Parents/guardians are needed to help transport Scouts to meetings, camping trips, and other activities. Adults that transport youth **both to and from** an outing other than their son(s) may be eligible for reimbursement for ten dollars per youth.
- For summer camp, parents must have secured a ride for their sons to and from camp before the start of camp. The adult in charge will have a list of attending youths and their assigned transportation. Arranging a ride home for your son during camp is not permitted. “Be Prepared”.
- Meal requirements will be outlined in advance for each trip or activity. Scouts will be informed if a bag lunch, etc. is needed, or if the trip involves Troop or Patrol cooking. Scouts who agree to provide meal items, cooking supplies, or other equipment for the Troop or Patrol are responsible for getting those items to their fellow Scouts – even if the Scout is unable to participate on the day of the trip or activity.
- Permission slips **and their accompanying checks** payable to “Troop 351” must be handed in no later than the troop meeting immediately preceding the weekends outing. In most cases this means the Monday troop meeting which is four days before the weekends outing. Communication between parents would be essential for this rule as failure to comply could result in the youth’s inability to attend the outing. This rule provides logistics and accountability for the patrols that have to coordinate trip activities and menus in addition to adults that have to plan and organize. There will be no exceptions.

- Hotels: Adults attending trips that feel that the existing camping facilities are not adequate may stay out of camp for the evening(s). This means those that choose to do so must participate with the troop program for the weekend. They must eat all meals with the troop. They must attend the troop campfire. Once the youths go to sleep and or after the campfire, then the adults will be able to depart the camp to a facility(s) that they have prepared for themselves. Adults must be back in camp to eat breakfast with the troop and assist packing up in required.
- Soda is not permitted on Troop trips/activities with the exception of summer camp where it is available at the camp trading post.
- Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on Troop trips/activities at any time.
- Adults smoking, may do so, but must be out of eye-sight of youths. Additionally must be in a location that would not be approached by youths.
- Adults “Driving into Town” from an outing is prohibited unless there is a crucial need for specific supplies or a medical emergency. Youths that “Forgot” item(s) will learn from their experience for the next outing. Part of what scouting is all about.
- Chewing gum is not permitted at any indoor activity, or for any ceremonial outdoor activities such as parades, honor guards, etc.
- Campfires and cooking fires will be built in fire rings or fire pits only. Use of stoves is subject to the Troop’s stove policy.
- Running, tree climbing, climbing on or jumping off structures, and swimming are prohibited unless part of designated Troop activities.
- Scouts who have earned the Totin’ Chip may carry small folding pocketknives on camping trips and other activities where appropriate. Sheath knives of any length and illegal knives (switchblades, gravity knives, **spring-assisted**, etc.) are prohibited. The Scoutmaster or trip/activity leader may confiscate a knife or other sharp tool (ax, saw, etc.) if used unsafely or inappropriately by a scout and the Scout may be subject to removal from the trip or activity. Lastly a pocket knife’s blade length may not extend longer than the width of the youths closed four fingers.
- The buddy system will be observed at all times.
- Never leave camp or an activity alone, and never leave without telling a leader.
- All injuries must be immediately reported to an adult.
- To encourage fellowship, individual electronic devices (iPods, CD players, video games, etc.) are discouraged when traveling to and from Troop activities with fellow Scouts. These devices, as well as cell phones, are prohibited from campsites; if brought, they will be collected by the Scoutmaster or activity leader and returned at the conclusion of the activity. The troop SPL, (Or Acting SPL), is permitted to have a device on outings and summer camp.
- The Scoutmaster, or other leader in charge of a trip or activity, has the right to inspect anyone’s equipment at any time.

- A backpack/equipment inspection/shake-down may be required in advance of a trip, especially for cold weather or hiking trips where having the correct equipment, correctly packed, is essential. Scouts who cannot attend the scheduled equipment review meeting must arrange for someone to bring their equipment to the Troop meeting for inspection, or make other arrangements with the Scoutmaster before the trip takes place.
- Any equipment borrowed from the Troop must be returned to the Troop clean and in good condition, with all parts that were originally supplied. Any equipment problems or damage must be reported immediately.
- Scouts are responsible for the upkeep of their assigned “Patrol Box”. All equipment must be kept clean and in working order. Communication with the troop quartermaster regarding servicing, replacing and replenishing of materials is required.
- All medicines needed by a Scout must be given to the Scoutmaster or other designated trip/activity leader. Any medical issues must be noted on Medical Forms or discussed with the Scoutmaster or trip/activity leader.
- At all times when the Troop is on a camping trip, at summer camp or another Troop activity, a responsible adult (parent/guardian/emergency contact) must be available to respond to the camp or activity location to assist or remove a Scout for health or disciplinary reasons, at the direction of the Scoutmaster or trip/activity leader. The Scoutmaster or designated trip/activity leader has the right to remove anyone from a Troop meeting, trip, or other activity, for health, discipline, or safety reasons.
- Scouts are issued a “Blue Bag” upon entry to the troop. This bag is to assist with the youth’s weekly belongings such as their scout handbook, rope and other items. Be advised that this bag is “On Loan” and must be returned when a scout departs from the troop so other new scouts may be able to use them. A scout may sew on patches and make cosmetic changes to the bag as long as the changes are not destructive.

Troop 351 Code of Conduct

All members of Troop 351 agree to abide by the Boy Scout Oath, Scout Law, and the Outdoor Code. Furthermore, Troop 351 does not tolerate the physical, verbal, or mental abuse of others. These principles are the basis of Troop 351's Code of Conduct policy.

For Code of Conduct violations, Troop 351 maintains a "Three Strikes" policy.

Strike One: At the direction of the Scoutmaster, the Scout shall be suspended from the next Troop activity. If a violation of the Code of Conduct occurred during a regular Troop meeting, the Scout will be suspended from the next meeting. If the violation occurred during a trip, outing, or other activity, the Scout will be suspended from the next trip, outing, or other activity.

Strike Two: Following a second Strike, a parent or legal guardian must accompany the Scout on all meetings, trips, and other Troop activities for a period of between one and six months, as determined by a meeting and vote of the Scoutmaster and Uniformed Leaders of the Troop.

Strike Three: The Scout shall be suspended from the Troop for a minimum of six months, or may be permanently removed from the Troop, as determined by a meeting and vote of the Scoutmaster and other Uniformed Leaders of the Troop.

The Scoutmaster must inform the Troop Committee Chairperson and/or Chartered Organization Representative (COR) of any incident resulting in a Scout receiving a First or Second Strike. Any discipline to be administered under Strike Three of this policy must be reviewed by the Troop Committee.

A parent or guardian of a Scout who is disciplined under the Code of Conduct policy may request the Troop Committee to review the issue. After such review, the Troop Committee reserves the right, in its sole judgment, to affirm the discipline imposed, to increase or decrease the discipline imposed, or to dismiss the discipline imposed.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read the Troop 351 Code of Conduct and agree to abide by this policy. (Both parents are required to sign or parents may submit separate signed Code of Conduct forms, Scouts that have brothers in the troop can sign on the second "Scout" line)

Scout: _____ Date: _____

Scout: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____