

## **TROOP 195 HONOR CODE**

**As a Scout in Troop 195, I will honor and promote behavior consistent with Scout Spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law in everyday life.**

That's it. That's the Honor Code in its entirety. Scouts are responsible for and to each other, and support each other in any honorable undertaking. Behavior aligned with Scout Spirit supports ethical and rational decision-making and provides a safe and fun environment for Scouts, free from verbal or physical abuse, harm, and harassment to conduct the business of Scouting. Troop 195 maintains there is no need for intervention nor action so long as a Scout's behavior aligns with Scout Spirit.

While in a perfect world the Honor Code would suffice, the Scouting world is full of adolescent young men looking to learn about and test themselves, test those around them and their boundaries. This is anticipated and expected. The Troop will do all that it can to provide a safe environment for each Scout to learn about himself and his surroundings while ensuring the general welfare of the Troop and all its members.

### **PROMOTING THE HONOR CODE**

Rarely will a Scout act outside the Honor Code without an audience or support, whether that support is active or passive. To help each Scout avoid such actions, the Troop proactively promotes the Honor Code.

Each Scout has the primary responsibility for promoting the Honor Code through demonstration in Scout activities as well as in everyday life. As Scouts are responsible for and to each other, each Scout has a duty to dissuade another from a lapse in good judgment, or remove himself from behavior unbecoming of a Scout.

Patrol Leaders are in the best position to promote Scout Spirit within their patrols. Through their words and actions, Patrol Leaders clearly communicate what is expected of their respective patrol members. In addition, Patrol Leaders are expected to monitor behavior and praise their patrol members for a job well done. When adverse behavior is exhibited, Patrol Leaders provide guidance by identifying the behavior or redirecting the Scout to another activity.

If the adverse behavior persists, the Patrol Leader will ask for assistance from the Senior Patrol Leader. The Senior Patrol Leader should coach the Patrol Leader and, if necessary, the Senior Patrol Leader will take appropriate corrective action, such as a verbal warning, including, "stump-sitting," which is a serious Scout-to-Scout discussion of behavior modification.

If the adverse behavior still persists, a Patrol Leader or Senior Patrol Leader will ask a uniformed adult leader to intervene. The uniformed adult leader's priority is to coach the Scout leader, or if directed by the Scout leader, take direct appropriate action to resolve the adverse behavior.

## **UNCLEAR ON THE CONCEPT OF THE HONOR CODE**

Troop 195 caters to a variety of Scouts. Some Scouts remain content within the self-imposed guidelines of the Honor Code, others step over the line on occasion, while others may not realize or acknowledge a line exists. For any of these Scouts, a supplement follows that outlines types of behavior incongruent with Scout Spirit and outside the Honor Code:

- Frequent use of inappropriate language
- Refusal to follow instructions or rules
- Taking of food or property belonging to another individual or patrol without expressed permission
- Damage to troop equipment or to the property of others by use in an unintended way
- Leaving the campsite at night without authorization from an adult
- Behavior endangering the emotional or physical health of a Scout or others
- Mental or physical hazing
- Possession of dangerous objects or substances
- Having or using any controlled substance at Scout activities
- Engaging in any illegal activity
- Any action bringing disrespect to the Troop

For a Scout who elects to disregard the Honor Code and Scout Spirit by engaging in conduct unbecoming of a Scout, he risks the assignment of points.

**POINTS:** Points are assigned due to Scout action(s) not in alignment with the Honor Code. Points can be assigned at any Scout activity and will accumulate over a rolling 12-month period. Points will be recorded by the Scoutmaster and become part of the Scout record with the Troop.

**POINT ASSIGNMENT:** It is the discretion of the Scoutmaster or his adult designee to determine the appropriateness of points and how many, if any, to assign. The Scoutmaster will call a Scoutmaster Conference with the Scout to inform the Scout of the assignment of points as soon as possible after the infraction. Recommendations for points can be made by Patrol Leaders, Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders, the Senior Patrol Leader, or any adult leader or adult chaperone. The Scoutmaster or his adult designee will investigate the incident and will make a final determination.

## **POINT GUIDELINES**

**First Point:** Verbal warning to the Scout and a written record by the Scoutmaster and a recommendation for the Scout to discuss the adverse behavior with his parents.

**Second Point:** Verbal warning to the Scout, a written record by the Scoutmaster, and email notification to his parents.

**Third Point:** Scout suspension from the troop as outlined:

- First suspension – Two-week suspension from all Scout activities. Leadership credit or activity credit in the troop will not be received during the suspension. The Scout and his parents must meet with the Troop Discipline Committee at the end of the suspension period and the Scout must be recommended by the Troop Discipline Committee for readmission to the troop.
- Second Suspension – Three-month suspension from all Scout activities. Leadership credit or activity credit in the troop will not be received during the suspension. The Scout and his parents must meet with the Troop Discipline Committee at the end of the suspension period and the Scout must be recommended by the Troop Discipline Committee for readmission to the troop.
- Third Suspension – Immediate dismissal from the troop.

## **TROOP DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE**

The Troop Discipline Committee will consist of three members: the Scoutmaster, a uniformed adult leader appointed by the Scoutmaster, and the Senior Patrol Leader or his designee. The Troop Discipline Committee may make adjustments to the Point Guidelines based on the seriousness of the Scout's actions and the age and rank of the Scout.

## **REMOVAL FROM ACTIVITY**

For serious violations of the Honor Code as determined by the Scoutmaster or his adult designee, he has the authority to isolate the Scout from the activity, regardless of location or time, and require his parents to remove him immediately.

## **SEARCH POLICY**

The Honor Code upholds for each Scout his right to privacy. If a Scout, however, gives just cause to the leadership that he may have violated that code, the Scoutmaster, or his adult designee, may search his tent and possessions. The search will be conducted in private with the Scout and another adult present. If

the Scout wishes to contact his parents prior to the search, that will be accommodated to the extent that communication is immediately possible.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

If a Scout has any controlled substances or is under the influence of a controlled substance during a Scout activity, he may be subject to any or all of following actions, or other actions, as determined by the Scoutmaster or his adult designee.

- Scout will isolated from the activity, regardless of location or time, and his parents will be required to remove him immediately.
- Scout will be relieved of any current leadership role and will not receive credit for time served in that role.
- Scout will be suspended immediately from all Scout activities for three (3) months with no credit given for participation in the troop.
- Scout must be accompanied by a parent and directly supervised on ALL troop activities for a specified period as determined by the Scoutmaster or his adult designee.
- Scout will be suspended from any advancement for six (6) months.
- Scout cannot hold any leadership position for a specified period.
- Scout must participate in a specified amount of community service, such as 40 hours over 6 months, as approved by the Scoutmaster or his adult designee. This volunteer work cannot be claimed for credit for any other activity, such as for school or Scouting rank advancement.
- In high-risk cases, the Scout must enter and complete a substance abuse/rehabilitation program.

A second substance abuse infraction is grounds for dismissal from the Troop.

While many concerns and issues are listed in this supplement, it stands only as a reminder of ways not to live with Scout Spirit and outside the Honor Code. Because they are mutually exclusive, living with Scout Spirit means none of these actions need ever be exercised.