Troop 270

Code of Conduct and Discipline Policy

All Scouts and Adults of Troop 270 are always expected to exhibit "Scout Spirit", which is defined as the daily living of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Scouting should be fun and challenging, while at the same time providing a safe and supportive environment.

The "Spirit of Scouting" dictates high expectations for the behavior of all Scouts in Troop 270. All Troop members are required to abide by the rules and guidelines set forth here and are expected to show appropriate self-control and respect to others always. Failure to comply with this policy may jeopardize the Scout's rank advancement sign -off for "Scout Spirit"

Weekly Troop Meeting:

Troop 270 meets weekly on Wednesday nights at the Newtown Congregational Church. Meetings start at 7:00 PM ending at 8:30 PM. Plan to arrive on time in full class A uniform (BSA socks, appropriate foot wear, pants, belt, shirt, neckerchief and slide) for opening ceremonies and activities. Scouts arriving after opening ceremony begins are to stand outside in the hall way and join their patrol at the conclusion of the ceremony.

The Troop Program:

Troop 270 follows the BSA Patrol Method. "It is a Scout run and adult guided program". The Troop activities are planned and executed by the Scout leadership through the "Green Bar" patrol leadership council, with adult participation and support. The troop elects a Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) minimally every 6 months. It is his job to oversee the entire troop and it’s. Each patrol, in turn, elects its own leader. It is the Patrol Leader (PL) who is responsible for leading their patrol at meetings and on camping trips. The patrol works together as a team to accomplish their group and individual goals and tasks. During the initial troop and patrol planning meetings, the Scouts will discuss upcoming events and troop activities. Scouts will be working on scout skills, training and preparing for upcoming camping trips. The Scouts will work together on skills building and individual advancement activities with the other members in their patrol on a weekly basis.

Code of Conduct

To provide a positive and safe environment for all Scouts while offering opportunities for exciting adventures and experiences, the following Code of Conduct has been established and must be agreed to.

1. Scouts will follow the Scout Law, Scout Oath, Scout Motto and the outdoor code. Scouts will remember that these are the basis for all Troop/BSA. Rules and policies and should be the basis for all their actions.

2. Scouts will wear full class A uniforms during all troop meetings, or Scout events decided by the SPL. (Socks, pants, belt, shirt, neckerchief and slide) unless Scoutmaster or SPL decides otherwise. A valid and reasonable excuse will be granted.

3. Exhibit leadership by following the rules and encouraging other Scouts to do the same.

4. Follow reasonable directives from adults and junior leadership team. Failure to follow such directives is unacceptable Scout behavior.

5. Be respectful and obedient. Unruly, loud, disrespectful or disobedient behavior will not be tolerated. The Scoutmaster or leader in charge is responsible for each Scouts safety. Instructions should be respectfully followed and must be followed when involving safety.

6. When the "Scout sign" goes up, everyone must be quiet. This is true at our Troop meetings, but also at every Scout event. Failure to stop talking when the sign is raised cuts into time allocated for our Troop activities and shows disrespect.

7. Scouts will wear Class B uniforms during all troop outings (campouts, service projects etc.,) unless Scoutmaster or SPL decides otherwise.

8. Swearing or use of offensive or unfit language and or gestures is unacceptable.

9. No fires or open flames of any kind are permitted inside tents. This means no lit candles, matches, stoves, heaters, lanterns or open flames of any type are allowed in tents. Only battery-operated lanterns or flashlights are permitted inside tents.

10. Fire safety rules will be enforced always. Scouts must not play in the fire or wave burning/smoldering sticks in the air. Scouts may be allowed to have matches as part of their”10” essentials" and only under adult supervision and in a designated location.

11. No Scout may carry or use a knife, until he has had the proper training and is in possession of a valid "Tote 'N Chip" card. If a Scout is not utilizing a knife safely or properly, the knife will be taken away for the event.

12. Sheath knives, spring assisted knives and knives with blades of more than four (4) inches may not be carried. Any knife deemed unacceptable will be confiscated and will be returned to the Scout's parent at the conclusion of the Scout activity.

13. Lights out must be respected. Be considerate of your neighbors.

14. Respect other people's property. No one may borrow or take any person's or the Troop's equipment or property without prior consent. Practical jokes, such as hiding someone else's gear, sabotaging tents, etc. have no place in this Troop, and will not be tolerated.

15. Use of any alcohol tobacco or other controlled substances by Scouts is strictly prohibited. The use of any tobacco products or vaping, or e cigarettes by Scouts is also prohibited. (See attached Troop 270 substance abuse policy for more info) If a Scout requires medication on a camp out or Scout event, the parent or legal guardian must turn in the medication and the associated dosage instructions to a Scout leader when dropping the Scout off.

16. Cellular phones, CD players, iPod's, portable televisions, radios, portable games, etc. are prohibited from use during Scout activities. Cellular phones must not be used (e.g. phone calls, texting, internet use, etc.) during Scout activities, unless Scout has earned the Cyber Chip or in the event of an emergency or with the permission of the Scoutmaster or other adult leader. Items such as personal CD players, iPod's and radios with headphones may be allowed during prolonged travels to and/or from a Scouting event, with approval of the driver and Scoutmaster. Scout leaders have the right to confiscate cellular devices if there is suspicion of cyber bullying or in appropriate web surfing.

17. Firearms, rockets, fire crackers, fireworks, ammunition, black powder, sling shots, bows and arrows, paint ball guns or any other weapons are prohibited. Exceptions may be made only at Troop designated activities such as building / testing rockets, archery and rifle shooting at a range with proper adult supervision.

18. Caffeinated, carbonated, "energy" and coffee drinks are prohibited for Scouts on Troop campouts.

19. Food, candy, snacks and soft drinks are not allowed in tents. Keep in mind they attract wild life.

20. Horseplay or inappropriate physical roughness will not be tolerated. Scouts must never restrain another Scout. Shoving, punching, kicking or stick fighting is prohibited. Troop will treat this as a safety issue.

21. Throwing of rocks or other injury threatening objects is dangerous and prohibited. Troop will treat this as a safety issue.

22. Scouts must respect other people's feelings. Threatening or intimidating another person by words or actions is prohibited. No hazing, "put-downs", ridiculing, hurtful comments, name-calling or jokes at other people's expense is allowed. Use nicknames only if the Scout does not object. (See attached Troop 270 bullying policy for more info).

23. No Scout may leave an activity and/or designated area without the Scoutmaster's or an Assistant Scoutmaster's expressed permission to do so.

24. Never venture off alone. The "buddy system" must be used at all times to provide support and safety. Scouts are required to have another person or buddy with them when swimming, meeting with a Merit Badge Counselor and during other Scout specified activities. The two-deep leadership concept must always be followed by all adults.

25. The intentional destruction of or damage to natural or man-made areas, as well as to personal or troop property is forbidden. Scouts will be accountable for damage.

26. Lying Is inconsistent with the goals and ideals of Scouting and will not be tolerated.

27. No fighting is allowed.

28. The Scoutmaster (with advice and counsel from his Assistant Scoutmasters) reserves the right to determine other forms of unacceptable behavior as they occur.

29. When in doubt, let the Scout Oath and Scout Law be your guide.

Discipline Policy

There are times when it may be necessary to discipline a Scout for not abiding by the Scout Oath, Law or the Troop's Code of Conduct. Discipline and conduct must be treated as an individual matter, recognizing the best discipline is preventive in nature rather than regulatory and restrictive. The Scoutmaster will ultimately be responsible for the proper behavior of Scouts and, therefore, will be expected to enforce a fair and consistent disciplinary plan. Fortunately, serious problems are rare due to the outstanding character of our Scouts and adults. When there are problems, cooperation among Scouts, the Scoutmaster and parents often turn problems into opportunities for growth, learning experiences and character development.

How Scouts are disciplined, by whom, when, and where are important issues that must be clearly established and communicated to all Scouts, parents and leaders. Scouts have a "right" to know what the consequences are if they break the rules. Scouts have the "right" to expect the Troop to discipline Scouts who disrupt Troop programs and activities or threaten the safety or well-being of others. All records of discipline pertaining to individual Scouts must be maintained by the Scoutmaster and passed along to succeeding Scoutmasters if the offending Scout is affiliated with the Troop. Access to these records must be limited to only those with a "need to know" as determined by the Scoutmaster and the Committee Chair. At the point when the offending Scout either leaves the Troop or becomes an adult (i.e., 18 years old), all disciplinary records pertaining to that Scout must be destroyed immediately.

It is the responsibility of the Scoutmaster, or the adult leader(s) in charge, to supervise the discipline of the Scouts and advise the Senior Patrol Leader of any violations of the Code of Conduct or other unacceptable behavior.

Adults always have the right and responsibility to immediately intervene in any situation they consider unsafe. These situations include, but are not limited to: fighting, hazing, foul language, bullying, sexual misconduct or inappropriate behavior. Adults should contact another adult as soon as possible to help quell the situation.

The physical presence of an adult leader is necessary to monitor the behavior of all Scouts. The adult leader must then decide what course of action is necessary to improve a situation. Discipline sessions are to be conducted off to the side, but in full view of Scouts or adults, and never in private behind closed doors, unless other adults are in attendance. BSA Youth Protection Guidelines must be followed at all times.

The following consequences and activities are prohibited in the Troop as discipline:

1. Bullying or Hazing - This includes, but is not limited to: shouting, cursing, ridiculing, name-calling, hazing
   activities or any other demeaning activity.
2. Physical Activity - Physical activity such as push-ups, sit-ups, or running may not be used as a consequence.
3. Kitchen Patrol - Additional kitchen duties cannot be used as a consequence.
4. Physical/Emotional Discipline - Physical/emotional discipline is prohibited.

Disciplinary Action Plan

The primary first line of discipline is to clearly communicate Troop expectations regarding Scout behavior. When discipline problems occur that require more than a friendly reminder from a Scout's peers or supervising adults, the following steps must be taken.

1st Offense - Verbal Warning - The Offending Scout Asked to Please Stop:

- The Patrol Leader/SPL/ASPL will have a conference with the offending Scout, and attempt to solve the conduct issue. Resolving the conflict by coaching, issuing a verbal warning and taking immediate action is the preferred first action.

2nd Offense - Removal from the Scout Activity and Talked to by SPL/ASPL/PL:

- If problem(s) continue, and the offending Scout has been asked to comply once more by an adult or junior leader, he will be temporarily removed from the Scout activity and have the SPL/ASPL discuss the behavior issue and resolution. This should take no more than five minutes. Coaching and a second "verbal warning" must be issued.

3rd Offense - Removal from the Scout Activity and Talked to by Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster:

1. If problem(s) continue, the offending Scout will again be removed from the Scout activity and brought to the SPL. The Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster must be notified of the behavior issue.

2. The Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster or other designated adult must specifically ask the offending Scout to stop the inappropriate behavior. The offending Scout must understand the nature of the offense, and the expected proper behavior. the offending Scout must be issued a warning by the SPL/SM/ASM in the form of a counseling session.

3. A record of the warnings must be made and filed with the Scoutmaster.

Notifying Parents:

1. A written warning must be issued to the offending Scout and his parents.

2. A meeting must be conducted with the offending Scout and the Senior Patrol Leader, Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster and parents. The written warning must be issued stating what section(s) of the Code of Conduct and Scout Law where violated and the reason why this consequence was issued. The written warning must be filed with the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair.

3. Removal from Scout Activity - If the violation is more severe, or if the offending Scout's actions are continually distracting or disruptive to the operation of the Troop, or are beyond the control of the junior leaders or Scoutmaster, the Scout will be asked to leave the Scout activity. If a parent cannot be contacted, the Scout will sit out the activities under supervision until the parents can be contacted and the Scout sent home.

Preventing Disruptive behavior:

1. The offending Scout will be required to attend a Scoutmaster Conference with a parent before he can attend another Scout function. This Scoutmaster Conference is the primary form of discipline and must clearly describe the acceptable behavior required of the offending Scout before the Scout can resume participation in Troop functions.

2. Before the offending Scout can return to Troop activities, he should write an educational tool type essay stating the disruptive behavior will stop. (250 words minimum), that must also be signed by the Scout's parent(s).

3. The essay must be completed and submitted to the Scoutmaster within two weeks of being notified of the requirement.

4. Scout will have a Scoutmaster conference or the option of a board of review at their discretion.

Probation:

1. If the offending Scout continues to misbehave, and there is another incident within six months a Scoutmaster Conference is required. The offending Scout's parents will be required to attend. The Scoutmaster, and at least one Assistant Scoutmaster, the offending Scout and the parents must devise an Action Plan for the offending Scout to resolve or rectify the problem for his inappropriate behavior. The Scoutmaster must immediately inform the Committee Chair of this situation. A Scout Disciplinary Review letter will be issued to the offending Scout and his parents, that will include the following:

    1. a description of the inappropriate behavior(s)
    2. a description of the immediate disciplinary action taken
    3. agreed upon action(s) to improve behavior issue(s)
    4. a requirement of parental cooperation in this matter
    5. an offer to arrange a meeting for advice and counsel by the Scoutmaster or Committee Chair with the parents and the offending Scout
    6. a notice to the parents that continued improper behavior will invoke a disciplinary conference
    7. a statement/form must be signed by the offending Scout and a parent

2. A Probationary Period will be assigned for up to three months. This will be a period for the offending Scout to continue with Troop activities, so that he may prove that he can demonstrate "Scout Spirit". This probationary period will be observed/monitored by the Scoutmaster, an Assistant Scoutmaster's.

3. If inadequate improvements are made by the offending Scout and/or the parent is not supportive/cooperative, the next course of action is suspension for a specified period (to be determined by the Scoutmaster with advice and counsel from selected Assistant Scoutmasters). The Scoutmaster must immediately notify the Committee Chair of the final decision.

Suspension: - Failure to Abide by the Prescribed and Agreed Upon Action Plan

1. Due to continued behavioral issues, the Committee Chair must meet with the offending Scout's parents to inform them about the consequence that will lead to the suspension of the offending Scout from the Troop.

2. Removal from Troop activities for 30 days or more (up to three months)

3. The offending Scout must have a meeting with Committee Chair, A Committee member, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scout Master and parent before reinstatement to the Troop can occur.

4. Should the suspension decision not satisfy the offending Scout and parent for any reason, the offending Scout has the right to appeal the decision by delivering a written appeal to the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair within two weeks of the decision being issued. The Committee Chair will discuss the appeal with the Scoutmaster and who will decide if it warrants further action. If the Committee Chair and Scoutmaster deems further action is unnecessary, the suspension decision is final.

5. If there is disagreement among the parties involved, the matter may be taken directly to the Troop Committee. The Committee will listen to all interested parties, gather information and decide the matter. Possible resolutions include but are not restricted to: negotiating an agreement with the offending Scout and parents about acceptable behavior, requiring that a parent attend all scouting activities in which the offending Scout participates, or expelling the Scout from the Troop.

Expulsion - Removal from the Troop

1. If the offending Scout's behavior issues cannot be resolved a review by the Scoutmaster, the Committee Chair and a 3 -member board (one Assistant Scoutmaster and two Troop Committee Members, none of whom are related to the offending Scout) will be conducted.

2. The offending Scout's parents will be notified of the Troop Committee's decision for the offending Scout to be expelled from the Troop.

3. The offending Scout will not be allowed to re-charter with the Troop.

Note: There may be instances when a certain action, behavior or circumstance is so significant or egregious that it necessitates that the prescribed Action Plan procedure be superseded by the need for immediate action and consequences. By-passing the prescribed Action Plan procedure may only be done with concurrence of the Scoutmaster, the Committee Chair and will only be condoned for extreme circumstances.

BSA Troop 270
Behavior Contract

I,_____, understand that I should be on my best behavior during all Boy Scout activities. I further understand that misbehavior and inappropriate activities will not be tolerated. I will remember that a Scout is courteous, kind and friendly. The Troop will always work as a team.

1. Live by the Scout Oath
2. Live by and practice the Scout Law
3. Live by the Scout Motto
4. Live by and practice the Outdoor Code

Behaviors that are not allowed at any Scout functions include, but are not necessarily limited to:

1. Disobeying junior or adult leaders (This includes Troop Committee members)
2. Hazing or bullying of other Scouts is unacceptable
3. Foul or inappropriate language of any kind
4. Hitting, fighting or similar actions
5. Refusing to follow Troop uniform policy
6. Not following safe Scoutcraft procedures
7. Leaving a designated area without an adult leader's permission
8. Lying, cheating, stealing and any form of inappropriate activity
9. Being uncooperative
10. Disrupting activities
11. Intentionally damaging property or equipment
12. Refusing to take prescribed medications
13. Doing anything that would be considered dangerous

Anyone found in violation of the above will be disciplined according to the Troop's Code of Conduct and Discipline Policy.

Furthermore, I fully understand that the consequences of misbehavior will vary depending upon the severity of the offense. I understand that these consequences can include warnings, sitting out during an activity, parent conferences, having a parent take me home from a Scout activity, suspension and possibly expulsion from the Troop.

Scout name: _____

Signature of Scout:_____Date: _____

I have discussed the behavior expectations and misbehavior consequences with my son. Furthermore, I agree to pick my son up from a Scout activity, if necessary, even if the activity is out of town, at any hour.

Parent / Legal Guardian Signature: _____Date: _____

This form will be signed once a year at re-charter time and turned into the Scout Master prior to any troop participation.

Adopted:
January 1st 201

Troop 270

Substance Abuse Policy

The official policy of the Boy Scouts of America about the use of possession of illegal drugs or alcohol by any participant is outlined in the Guide to Safe Scouting and reads as follows:
The Boy Scouts of America prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances at encampments or activities on property owned and/or operated by the Boy Scouts of America, or at any activity involving participation of youth members.
This policy will be followed in all Troop 270 activities whether it involves the attendance of youth (e.g. Troop Committee meetings). Any Scout or Adult (Adult Leader or Parent) that who is found to be in possession of, or under the influence of any item deemed to be in this category shall face immediate disciplinary actions from the Troop.
These actions may include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Immediate removal of the member from the activity. In the case of a youth, the parent(s) or guardian(s) will be contacted and instructed to come and remove the Scout from the activity. In the event of an Adult, the Adult will be instructed to leave the activity and will be responsible for contacting someone to come pick them up if they are the under the influence, which means unable to safely drive themselves.
   If the parent(s) or guardian(s) or the adult refuse to remove their Scout or themselves, respectively, from the activity, the Scout will be turned over to the local Law Enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the area where the incident occurred. Parents will be notified by the Troop leadership and provided with a phone number and the location of the agency where their son is being held.
   If an adult refuses to leave or proper transportation cannot be obtained, then the local law enforcement agency will be asked to remove the offender from the activity.

2. Where the situation warrants, (i.e., a large quantity of controlled substance and/or distribution and/or sale to other Scouts) local law enforcement will be called and the offending member turned over to them for prosecution.

3. Possible dismissal from the Troop upon referral to, and review by a Disciplinary Board of Review.

4. Any event of this nature shall be referred to the Scoutmaster and/or Troop Committee for further action.

5. Any member who is dismissed by the Troop or Disciplinary Board of Review shall be reported to the Council Scout Executive for the Council's records. Controlled Substances shall be defined as:

   a. Any substance that is deemed illegal by federal, state or local laws
   b. Any medication that is used in means that is other than directed by a physician, medical personnel, or the directions on the label of the product.
   c. Any medication that is not prescribed by a physician for that specific person for current use by that person.
   d. d. Any substance that is used in a method other that for what it was intended to be used. Examples such as sniffing glue or paint, huffing or any other method of getting "high" or artificially altering one's mental state.
   e. Alcohol shall be defined as any malted or distilled product that has any trace of alcohol in the contents. This includes commercially manufactured and/ or home brewed products. The use of "non-alcoholic" beverages such as beer and sparkling grape juice shall not be permitted on any Scouting activity.

If there is any dispute about whether an event or product falls under these guidelines, then it shall be the decision of the Scoutmaster and Troop Committee Chair, to determine what actions need to be taken on a case-by-case basis. Their decision will be final.

Troop 270
Bullying Policy

The Boy Scouts of America Youth Protection Policy states:

"The Boy Scouts of America places the greatest importance on creating the most secure environment possible for its youth members."

Furthermore, all forms of bullying are prohibited in Scouting. All forms of bullying violate the Scout Oath and Law. These include but not limited to the following forms of bullying.

Forms of Bullying

- Verbal – name calling, teasing
- Social – spread rumors, leaving the target out of activities, breaking up or manipulating friendships
- Physical – hitting, pushing, shoving, physical coercion
- Group – intimidations, ostracizing
- Criminal – injury, assault, sexual aggression
- Cyber bullying – using digital technology – social media, mobile phones, computers, etc., for any of the above

To that end Troop 270 has a zero-tolerance policy for bullying, threatening or intimidating another person. When there is an instance of bullying, Scout's will be subject to the disciplinary action plan.

Boy Scout Troop 270 Bullying Policy Anti-bullying statement.

A safe Scouting environment is one in which every Scout can develop emotionally, intellectually, and physically in a supportive atmosphere free of intimidation and abuse. Troop 270 will endeavor to maintain an environment free of bullying.

Continued bullying of the target will lead to poor self-image, poor self-esteem, quitting Scouting, or becoming a bully to other, younger boys, thus perpetuating the bully cycle.