

Code of Conduct

Troop 574
Carrollton, Texas

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1. Mission Statement

This Code of Conduct for Troop 574 is intended to support the ideals on which our Troop and the Boy Scouts of America were founded. Maintaining a positive environment for all Scouters within the program is also an important part of this goal. Establishing and maintaining this program is the shared responsibility of all scouts, parents, and the leadership of our troop. The cooperation of everyone is needed so that we may effectively provide a reasonable level of respect for others and ourselves at all times. The rules of conduct are necessary, so that our program can continue to provide a positive environment as our troop continues to grow. Disobedience, disruptive behavior, horseplay or teasing only undermines the effort to accomplish these goals, and in some circumstances, maintain the safety of our Scouts.

This handbook will serve to outline the expectations for scouts, parents, and the leadership of Troop 574 in this area. This will also include disciplinary action as necessary. It is hoped that all will embrace this program as a positive, and recognize its importance. We do, however, also need to address the fact that not everyone will meet these behavior standards. Disciplinary action is always a last resort, and only turned to in situations in which counseling has failed to correct the situation.

2. Program goals

The goals for this program are:

- Support the Scouting experience
 - Maintain a safe environment
 - Maintain a “safe haven”
 - Meet dress codes
 - Keep the focus on learning and having fun
 - Personal conduct based on self respect
 - Personal conduct based on respect for others
 - Set a good example – scouts and leaders
 - Establish a set of “ground rules” that define how we run our troop
 - Establish a program to maintain order and troop structure.

3. A Message from the Scoutmaster

As Scoutmaster it is my ultimate goal to maintain a safe environment for all Scouts in this Troop. This document will provide the necessary tools for maintaining a “Safe Haven” for all Scouts. It is not my intention to put an unnecessary burden on any Scout, but is to set a standard for this Troop for many years to come. Until now this Troop has done very well on maintaining order and discipline, but this document sets forth the method by which each adult and Scout shall maintain order and discipline in this Troop at meetings and all outings in the future.

As Scoutmaster, it is also my goal to be fair and equal in all decisions made. The Scout needs to be open-minded and to take responsibility for his actions. The method by which a Scout can get the answer he seeks in a certain situation is as follows.

- The Scout seeks out the Patrol Leader in his group for assistance. If the Patrol Leader cannot help, the Scout then seeks assistance from the Senior Patrol Leader.
- If the Scout does not get the help needed from the Patrol Leaders, he may then seek out the Scoutmaster or any Assistant Scoutmaster.
- During an emergency situation the Scout should immediately come to the Scoutmaster or any adult for assistance. It is up to the Scout to decide if the situation is an emergency.

Using these steps will help the Troop maintain the “Boy Led Troop” methodology that has been used in the past and shall be used in the future. The Scoutmaster shall maintain an “Open Door” policy when contact between a parent or guardian and a Scout is necessary.

4. Behavior

4.1 Standard of Conduct for Boy Scouts

4.1.1 Respect yourself.

If you don't have respect for yourself, it is difficult for you to respect others. Respect has nothing to do with age, and developing a sense of self-respect is an important part of maturing. Always be aware of your worth – to your family, to your friends, to your fellow Scouts, and to your community. The actions you take reflect on the kind of person you are. Always conduct yourself in a manner that you can take pride in! Don't make excuses for bad behavior or bad decisions. Learn from your mistakes, and take responsibility for them – this is also part of maturing.

4.1.2 Respect others

We are all different, and that is what makes us special. respect for the differences in others will help you accept them for who they are, instead of who you want them to be. respecting others means that you don't tease, insult, or

become physical with your fellow Scouts. **This kind of “playing around” will not be tolerated.**

4.1.3 Respect the Troop Leadership

You will respect the authority of the troop leadership. This includes both the youth and adult leaders. If you are asked to help out during a Troop activity, or to stop an activity that is not acceptable, you will follow those instructions without hesitation or complaint. We must all work together to get things done and to make the most of the time we have. Leaders are here to lead – you as the Scout are here to follow their lead and learn.

4.2 Standard of Conduct for Leaders

4.2.1 Setting an Example

All troop leaders carry an important responsibility that comes with the badge of rank. This responsibility is one that provides a good example for others to follow. Conduct yourself at all times with an attitude that supports and conveys all of the good things that scouting has to offer. This includes maintaining a level of authority during meetings and activities.

4.2.2 Respect for Others

Leaders must exhibit the same behavior that we expect from the Scouts, in regard to issues of respect and personal conduct. If you are in a meeting, or at a Troop event, remember that “eyes are on you,” and that the way you conduct yourself goes a long way in determining how others will interact with you. We will not embarrass Scouts and other leaders or disrupt group gatherings by having discussions better suited to a different setting.

4.2.3 Support Troop Policy

All leaders shall support Troop policy. If policies need to be updated or modified, they can be addressed at the committee level, with the Scoutmaster, or with the Committee Chair.

4.3 Support from the Parent

4.3.1 Support your Scout

Please take time to involve yourself with your son's scouting experience. All Scouts will benefit from time spent with a parent working towards completion of badge and rank requirements. This also adds to the enjoyment of the program for both of you. Help your Scout understand the importance of his behavior, and how it can affect the scouting experience for him and others in his Patrol and Troop.

4.3.2 Support the Troop

A successful Troop relies on support from the parents. If you are unable to give time to a full time support role, volunteering for special projects and events is an excellent way to help the Troop, and won't require a significant investment of your time. Please attend Troop meetings and Committee meetings when you can, and let the adult leadership know if you can help.

4.3.3 Support the leadership

Troop leadership is here to provide a rewarding program for all Scouts, based on learning new skills, traveling to interesting locations, and experiencing adventure in a fun and safe way. Please do whatever you can to support the leaders and the efforts they put in to making our Troop great.

5. Dress Code

Troop 574's uniform policy is as follows:

- The standard class A uniform will be worn to all Troop Courts of Honor, during designated events at camps attended by more than just Troop 574, to all official BSA events and whenever the Troop travels as a group. The **formal** class A uniform may be required at certain BSA events and is recommended for Courts of Honor, but not required. It is not necessary for a Scout to obtain a **formal**

class A uniform unless they attend a BSA function at which the formal uniform is required.

- During the school year, the standard class A uniform will be worn to all Troop Meetings and fully visible.
- The class B uniform will be worn on all campouts (other than when travelling as a group), during specified Troop activities and during fundraising events that are not sponsored by Boy Scouts of America (for example, when selling fertilizer or working at the garage sale).
- Other than during the school year, the class B uniform will be worn to all Troop Meetings and fully visible.
- At any time, the Scoutmaster may designate the required uniform. Any questions regarding the appropriate uniform to wear should be directed to the Scoutmaster or any Assistant Scoutmaster.

The uniform is an important part of Scouting. It sets Scouts apart from everyone else, but not from each other. At Troop 574, we want the uniform to be just that - uniform, but we are also sensitive to the costs involved in providing uniforms for growing boys. Troop 574's uniform requirements are as follows:

- Class A uniform: The standard class A uniform consists of an official BSA brown shirt with approved patches and insignia (see the Boy Scout Handbook for details); clean, neat dark blue or olive green pants or shorts (with belt loops and pockets) or official BSA pants or shorts; a Scout belt and close-toed shoes. Clean, neat denim blue jean pants and shorts are acceptable. Olive green pants and shorts should be close in color to the official BSA pants and shorts. The **formal** Class A uniform consists of an official BSA brown shirt with approved patches and insignia, an official BSA merit badge sash (if appropriate), official BSA pants or shorts, official BSA socks and belt and brown or black hiking or dress

shoes. The class A uniform must be worn with the shirt tucked in and the pants worn at the waist. The class A uniform may include an official BSA hat. ***By way of example only, at no time are the following approved parts of the class A uniform: gym shorts, bathing suits, ragged cutoffs, jeans that are not either blue or olive green, jeans with decorative stitching or logos other than simple brand labels, open-toed sandals or any kind of shoes without socks.***

- Class B uniform: Consists of a green Troop T-shirt; clean, neat dark blue or olive green pants or shorts (with belt loops and pockets) or official BSA pants or shorts; a Scout belt and close-toed shoes. Clean, neat denim blue jean pants and shorts are acceptable. Olive green pants and shorts should be close in color to the official BSA pants and shorts. During certain activities, the class B uniform may include a scout-related T-shirt other than the Troop T-shirt at the discretion of and by specific direction from the Scoutmaster. The class B uniform must be worn with the shirt tucked in and the pants worn at the waist. The class B uniform may include either an approved BSA hat or a plain or scout-related hat. ***By way of example only, at no time are the following approved parts of the class B uniform: gym shorts, bathing suits (except to, from, and during swimming or boating activities), ragged cutoffs, jeans that are not either blue or olive green, jeans with decorative stitching or logos other than simple brand labels, logo hats that are not scout-related, non-scout related T-shirts, open-toed sandals or any kind of shoes without socks.***

6. Standards of Behavior for Scouts

At meetings – both Troop and Patrol

- **All Scouts** to set up the room according to the Senior Patrol Leader's instructions

- **All** Patrol members sit together by patrol
- **All** Scouts will follow directions from the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and adult leaders
- **No** talking during presentations or instructions
- **No** disruptions
- **No** profanity
- **No** horseplay during the meeting
- **No** running indoors
- **No** food or drink (including gum and candy) allowed in meetings, unless served by the Troop
- **All** hats are to be removed during the meeting
- **All** Scouts will help to clean up the meeting room before leaving

During trips and in camp

- **All** Scouts to conduct themselves with best behavior during travel
- **All** Scouts to assist in setting up camp
- **All** Scouts to perform duty roster assignments as given
- **All** Scouts to observe proper specified procedures for latrine use
- **All** Scouts to observe the buddy system at all times
- **All** Scouts to assist in breaking down camp and loading equipment
- **NO** leaving camp alone
- **NO** leaving camp without permission from the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader or an adult leader
- **NO** horseplay
- **NO** profanity
- **NO** RUNNING IN CAMP
- **NO** PLAYING WITH FIRE OR CAMPFIRES

7. Discipline and Corrective Actions

7.1 Scouts Rights and Responsibilities

Scouts, Scout leaders and volunteer parents within the scouting organization have certain rights and responsibilities. Violation of any of these rights or responsibilities by a Scout will not be tolerated and consequences for such actions could include, but not be limited to, removal from Troop 574 (the “Troop”).

7.2 Rights

All Scouts in the Troop have the following rights:

- All Scouts are entitled to enjoy the basic rights of citizenship, which are recognized and protected by laws of this country and state for persons of their age and maturity. Each Scout is obligated to respect the rights of the other Scouts and Scout leaders in the Troop.
- The Troop will foster a climate of mutual respect for the rights of others. Such an environment will enhance the advancement process for each Scout.
- All of the Troop’s leaders and/or parents will recognize and respect the rights of the Scouts, just as all Scouts will exercise their rights responsibly, with due regard for the equal rights of others in compliance with the rules and regulations established for the orderly conduct of the Troop.
- Scouts who violate the rights of others or who violate the rules and regulations of Boy Scouts of America (“BSA”), Circle 10 Council (the “Council”), the Troop, or the laws of the State of Texas or the United States of America are subject to appropriate disciplinary interventions, designed to correct their misconduct and to promote adherence by them and by other Scouts to their responsibilities as members of the Troop and BSA.

7.3 Responsibilities

The guidelines for a responsible Scout in the Troop are as follows:

- Demonstrating courtesy and respect for others **even** when others do not;
- Cooperating with or assisting the Troop leaders (both Scout leader and adult leader) in maintaining safety, order and discipline;
- Behaving in a responsible manner, always exercising self-discipline;
- Being well groomed, dressing appropriately and following the dress regulations outlined in the Troop's Code of Conduct (the "*Code*");
- Respecting the rights and privileges of other Scouts and Scout leaders;
- Obeying all the Troop, North District (the "*District*"), the Council and BSA rules;
- Respecting personal property and the property of others including, but not limited to, the Troop, BSA and Holy Covenant United Methodist Church ("*HCUMC*"); and
- Complying with the Code and all policies and procedures outlined in the Code or based on the Code.

7.4 Definitions of Misconduct

7.4.1 Assault

Scouts shall not assault anyone while participating in any BSA, District or Troop function.

- Assault of an individual is defined as intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causing bodily injury to another; threatening another with imminent bodily injury; causing physical contact with another when the Scout knows or should reasonably believe that the other will regard the contact as offensive or provocative; or engaging in conduct that contains the elements of assault against another

Scout, Scout leader or parent participating in any Troop, District or BSA function.

7.4.2 Disruption

Scouts shall not disrupt any Troop, District or BSA function. Troop functions include travel to and from.

- Disruption is defined as causing substantial disorder or invading the rights of others through an assault, threats, harassment, physical conduct or verbal conduct.

7.4.3 Property Damage

Scouts shall not litter, deface, damage or otherwise vandalize any property or equipment belonging to or used by any Scout, the Troop, District, the Council, BSA, HCUMC or any public property. In addition to other possible discipline, any Scout causing damage to someone else's property may be held financially liable for those damages.

7.4.4 Harassment

Scouts shall not harass any person during Troop, District, Council or BSA functions.

- Harassment consists of, but is not limited to, hate speech, such as name-calling, ethnic or racial slurs, and derogatory statements, whether expressed orally, symbolically, or in writing that disrupt any Scout activity or program or invades the rights of any Scout.

7.4.5 Sexual Harassment

Scouts shall not sexually harass any person.

- Sexual harassment is any activity of a sexual nature that is unwanted or unwelcome.

7.4.6 Hazing

Scouts shall not haze any person or encourage or assist any other Scout, Scout leader or parent in hazing.

- Hazing means any intentional, willful, knowing or reckless act directed against a person by one or more persons for the reason of subjecting one or more persons to indignity, humiliation, intimidation, physical abuse, or threats of abuse, social or other ostracism, or shame or disgrace, or endangering the mental, emotional, or physical health or safety of a person for the purpose of maintaining or forming their relationship with the scouting organization. Hazing includes, but is not limited to, any kind of brutality; physical activity of any manner that is physically harmful to another; unreasonable consumption of food or liquid that could adversely effect the mental, emotional or physical health or safety of another person; any activity that intimidates or threatens a person with racism, that subjects a person to extreme mental stress, shame or humiliation or that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of a person or discourages a person from remaining in or joining a scouting organization or that may reasonably be expected to cause a person to leave the scouting organization rather than be submitted to the acts described above.

7.4.7 Insubordination

Scouts shall not engage in acts of insubordination. Acts of insubordination may include, but not be limited to, failure to comply with Troop, District, Council or BSA rules or regulations, including safety rules, leaving a Scout function without permission, use of offensive language at a Troop, District, Council or BSA function, and failure to follow directions given by any Troop leader or person in position of authority.

7.4.8 Theft

Scouts shall not take property belonging to others.

7.5 Disciplinary Action

Appropriate disciplinary action is essential to accomplishment of the goals set forth in this Code. No disciplinary action shall be taken without consideration

of the due process rights of those involved unless the situation presents a danger of imminent harm. Situations presenting a danger of imminent harm may include, but not be limited to, unauthorized possession of a firearm or other weapon of any sort, conduct that could immediately result in serious injury or death, or conduct that could immediately result in the destruction of property. Absent a danger of imminent harm, efforts will be made to discern the facts in situations not witnessed by a leader or person in a position of authority before disciplinary action is taken.

In all cases, discipline shall be aimed at correcting the undesirable behavior and protecting the rights of others potentially effected by the behavior. The following disciplinary actions may be used alone or in combination and, when appropriate, shall be progressive in nature in the order set forth:

- verbal correction;
- cooling off time;
- confiscation of items that disrupt a Scout activity;
- assignment of duties other than the Patrol duty assignments;
- counseling to include a parent;
- suspension from Patrol and/or Troop activities; and
- permanent removal from the Troop.

Discipline may be administered by any Troop leader, including Senior and Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders, adult volunteers and other persons in a position of authority in a manner consistent with the BSA Youth Protection Program. Parent consultation, suspensions and removals from the Troop will be handled by Assistant Scoutmasters or the Scoutmaster only and in a manner consistent with the BSA Youth Protection Program.

Any action by a Scout that results in harm to another Scout, Scout leader, family member, adult volunteer or damage to property belonging to another Scout, Scout leader, adult volunteer or the Troop, District, Council or BSA will be reported in writing to the District per BSA and District guidelines. Any

action that results in a Scout being asked to leave the Troop will be reported in writing to the District according to BSA and District guidelines.

Any behavior that can be construed as Sexual Harassment will result in the immediate removal of the Scout from the activity and the immediate reporting of the activity to a parent of the Scout involved, the proper authorities within the Council and the BSA, in accordance with the policies set forth in the BSA Youth Protection Program.

Continued behavior by a Scout that leads to the loss of another Scout's, Scout Leader's, or adult volunteer's rights or responsibilities, may lead to that Scout's inability to participate in Scout activities without the presence of one or more of his parents at all times.

A Scout will not be asked to leave the Troop without being notified first of his behavior, being counseled, notice being given to the Scout's parents and notice being given to the District.