

# Troop 20 Guidelines

(2006 Revision)



The volunteer leadership of Troop 20 is dedicated to the Scouting program's three main aims:

- To Build Character
- To Foster Citizenship
- To Develop Fitness

The following guidelines have been established to help the Troop more effectively meet these aims.

- 1) Troop Meetings Troop meetings are held weekly during the school year on Thursday night, with the exception of school holidays, vacations, or school closures due to the weather. Troop meetings start promptly at 7:00 PM and end at 8:30 PM. At each Scout meeting, unless told otherwise, each Scout is expected to bring a notebook or paper, a pen or pencil, and his Boy Scout Handbook.
- 2) Uniform Each Scout is expected to wear his proper Scout Uniform (shirt and neckerchief) to all Boy Scout functions. This includes, but is not limited to, Troop meetings, council events, boards of review and Scoutmaster conferences. "We are proud to be Scouts, so we should be proud to wear our uniform."
- 3) Advancement The Scouting definition of advancement is "the art of meeting a challenge." The advancement program is one in which a Scout's progress is a natural outcome of his regular Scouting activities. Each Scout will advance at his own pace. The leaders will encourage, not demand, advancement. There are no established time schedules for rank advancement. A Scout's advancement is to be recorded in his Scout Handbook. After demonstrating his ability at a given skill, the following can sign the advancement record for the Scout:

- Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class:
    - Scoutmaster
    - Assistant Scoutmaster
    - Jr. Assistant Scoutmaster\*
    - Senior Patrol Leader\*
      - \*Provided they are at least Star
  
  - Star, Life, Eagle:
    - Scoutmaster
    - Assistant Scoutmaster
- 4) Finances A Scout Troop, like a business, runs on money. To meet the financial responsibilities of the troop, the Troop Committee will operate a series of fundraisers during the year. Money earned will be used to purchase and maintain troop equipment, defray program costs, advancement costs and other purposes as approved by the Troop Committee. Each Scout will have an opportunity to defray the cost of summer camp through a Troop sponsored fundraiser. Every Scout is expected to participate in all fundraising efforts of his Troop. There will be times during the year when a Scout will be asked to pay something extra towards an activity, depending on the availability of Troop funds.

Yearly Fees to be paid by check or money order made out to Troop 20

Troop Dues	\$37.00
BSA Registration	\$10.00
Boy's Life	\$12.00
<u>Insurance</u>	<u>\$1.00</u>
Total	\$60.00

Each Patrol, at their own discretion, may collect dues to help defray costs associated with Patrol expenses. The amount of dues a Patrol may collect from its members is subject to approval of the Troop Committee.

- 5) Troop Organization The Troop is organized into patrols. Each patrol is comprised of six to eight boys. Boys are assigned to patrols at the discretion of the Scoutmaster, whose goal is to achieve a range and balance of Scout age, rank and experience in each patrol. As new Scouts enter the Troop, they will be assigned to one of the Troop's existing patrols. The patrol will help the new Scout learn the basic Scout skills needed to advance in rank from Tenderfoot to First Class Scout.
- 6) Paperwork For the mutual protection of the Scout and the Troop, written documentation may be needed as follows:
- *Permission Slips:* These may be needed for the Scout to participate in a Scouting event. Please complete and return them promptly when asked.

- *Medical Forms:* All Scouts must have a physician's medical form on file with the Troop. Also, a notarized statement from a parent, allowing the Troop to seek necessary medical treatment must be on file. This will "travel" with the Troop in case an emergency arises while away from home.
  - *Medications:* All medications (including over-the-counter) taken at a Scout event require written consent of a parent and must be dispensed by one of the Troop's adult leaders. Please make the Scoutmaster aware of all the specifics, so there will be no surprises.
- 7) Camp Outs Parents/Guardians are responsible for checking and ensuring that Scouts are properly packed for a camp out and not bringing any inappropriate items, such as large knives, firearms, fuels, etc. The Troop reserves the right to inspect a Scout's gear if there is serious concern for the safety and well being of the scout and other members of the Troop. Parents/Guardians are also responsible for the drop-off and pick-up of Scouts at the place and time designated for each camp out. Otherwise, they should be available by telephone at the designated time, or have made arrangements for the scout, by letting the Scoutmaster know beforehand.
- 8) Attendance Troop meetings and Patrol meetings provide the foundation for learning the skills needed to participate in many of our troop activities. It is very important for Scouts to attend meetings regularly.
- 9) Troop Website The Troop maintains an Internet website ([www.Troop20M.org](http://www.Troop20M.org)) for the posting of information concerning the Troop (contacts, calendar, etc.) and its activities. Pictures of Troop activities will be periodically posted to the website. Unless informed otherwise, in writing, the Troop will assume it has permission to post pictures that may contain images of Scouts participating in these Troop activities
- 10) Behavior and Discipline While the Scouting experience should be fun for all Scouts; proper behavior is necessary for the unit to function properly. Rude or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated at any function of the troop. Discipline is something we hope is never needed. However, our policy is to have the action we impose fit the situation we are trying to control. Corrective measures may consist of one or more of the following:
- *Time out:* A Scout is removed from a situation for a short time period. If a Scout is given more than two time outs at a given event, he may be sent home for the remainder of that event. (Being overly disruptive at a Troop meeting, for example)
  - *Loss of Privilege:* Taking away participation in an entire activity during an event, or not allowed to participate at all in an event. (Not allowed to play a game during a Troop meeting.)
  - *Scoutmaster Conference:* Continued misbehavior may require a conference with the Scoutmaster to determine a reason or cause and any appropriate action.
  - *Parent Involvement:* If a Scout continues to misbehave or acts in a reckless or dangerous manner.

- IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL-SMOKING, USE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL, INTIMIDATION, EXCESSIVE FIGHTING OR SWEARING MAY RESULT IN IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL FROM TROOP 20.

Any parent with a question concerning disciplinary treatment or any other situation should discuss it with the Scoutmaster or the Troop Committee Chairman:

Bill Goodrich  
Scoutmaster  
(508) 946-0257

David Cunningham  
Committee Chairman  
(508) 946-1859

Please fill in the information requested below to acknowledge your receipt and agreement to abide by the Troop 20 Guidelines. Detach and return this form to the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman.

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Scout's Name

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Signature

Date

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Parent's/Guardian's Name

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Signature

Date