

TROOP 48, BSA

GUIDELINES FOR RESPECTFUL AND APPROPRIATE USE OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT AT TROOP MEETINGS AND OUTINGS (Rev Mar-2021)

VISION: Troop and Patrol Meetings and other Scouting functions will be free from distracting use of cell phones, laptop computers, electronic tablets, music players, and other electronic devices. Scouts and Adult Leaders will focus their attention on the agendas and purposes of the Scouting activities. Individual behavior will reflect the Scout Law, especially being helpful, friendly, courteous, and kind.

OBJECTIVES:

- Encourage the positive use of electronic devices. These include (1) calling parents to get permission to sign up for an outing, (2) calling patrol members not present to find out if they are going on an outing, (3) looking up information that helps with a merit badge or other advancement requirement, (4) getting emergency help, and (5) other useful functions that contribute to the purpose of the Scouting activity.
- Help Scouts understand that using an electronic device may annoy and distract others present. Follow a standard practice of setting cell phones on "Mute" or "Vibrate."
- Emphasize the need for all persons present at a Scouting function to share in the responsibility to focus on the agenda, either stated or implied.
- During special presentations, such as skill talks or announcements, pay attention to the speaker and refrain from carrying on side conversations within hearing of the speaker.
- The sharing of information or graphic images from an electronic device must support the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
- Help the Leadership Corps, Patrol Leaders, and other boy leaders learn effective skills in leading meetings and activities in such a way as to maintain focus on the meeting objectives. Show them how to "Be Prepared" and to "take charge."
- Help each Scout understand how his good behavior contributes to the success of the meeting or activity.
- Help the boy leaders develop skills for dealing with disruptive behavior.
- For violation of the above guidelines, Adult Troop Leaders will be prepared to ask the Scout to give the offending device to the Leader for the duration of the meeting or other activity.
- **SOCIAL MEDIA:** Use Facebook and other social media in a positive way that supports the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Recommended usage: photos of camping trips and other outings, Scouts receiving awards, special Scouting achievement, and new Scouts joining T48. Avoid content that is critical of Scouts, Patrols, Troops, or Scouting programs. The negative content invites negative, hostile, and sarcastic remarks.
- [Also see Troop 48 policy: Behavior Guidelines]

Julieann White
Scoutmaster

Julie Harless Keeton
Chairman, Troop Committee

Scout's and Parent/Guardian's Statement:

I have read and understand the above guidelines. I know the importance of appropriate use of electronic devices by Scouts and will follow and support the above policy.

Scout's Name _____

Parent / Guardian's Name _____

Scout's Signature / Date

Parent / Guardian's Signature / Date