

Boy Scouts of America

Troop 649 Rules

Belgrade, MT

1. Code of Conduct:

- a. All Troop functions are considered a Safe Haven (free from bullying, hazing, violence, etc.).
- b. All scouts are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with Scout Oath and Law.
- c. Physical violence, hazing, bullying, theft, verbal insults, cursing, drugs and alcohol will not be tolerated. Scouts should seek help from their Troop leaders if they encounter any of these.
- d. **Consequence:**
 - 1st Offense: Call to Parents and talk with the Scoutmaster.
 - 2nd Offense: Conference with Parents and Scoutmaster.
 - 3rd Offense: Conference with Parents and Scoutmaster. At the Scoutmasters discretion, Scout may miss the next meeting/activity/campout.
 - 4th Offense: Meeting with the Committee and PLC. Additional consequences may be determined by the Committee at that time.

2. Advancement:

- a. **Active Scout:**
 - Attend 75% of meetings and 50% of Troop activities in the prior 2-month period. This means you can only miss 2 meetings and 1 campout unless the absence is excused.
 - Examples of excused absences are: family, school or sports activities.
 - **Consequence:** Scouts cannot advance if they aren't active.
- b. **Meeting Attendance:**
 - The Troop Scribe will keep track of meeting attendance.
 - Scouts who cannot make a meeting must call (in preferred order): the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), Patrol Leader, Scoutmaster or Patrol Advisor.
 - The Scoutmaster or Advancement Chair will verify attendance prior to scheduling the Board of Review.
 - **Consequence:** Scouts cannot advance if they don't attend meetings.
- c. **Scout Spirit:**
 - Applies to how a Scout lives and conducts his 'daily' life.
 - Show Scout Spirit by being a role model to his peers and living by the Scout Oath and Law.
 - Show Scout Spirit by wearing the appropriate complete uniform for the activity.
 - **Consequence:** Scouts cannot advance if they don't show Scout spirit.
- d. **ScoutBook:**
 - Log all campouts and advancements in the Scout Handbook first.
 - All attendance and advancements should also be logged in ScoutBook.
 - ScoutBook must be up to date prior to a Board of Review.
 - **Consequence:** Scouts cannot advance if ScoutBook is not up to date.
- e. **Board of Review:**
 - Boards of Review are held on the second Monday of each month.
 - One week before the Board of Review, request a Scoutmaster conference and schedule with the Advancement Chair.

3. Uniform

- a. All scouts must have a complete Class A uniform – uniform shirt, Troop scarf, Scout belt, Scout pants/shorts, Scout socks (worn with Scout shorts). Uniforms must be worn to Troop meetings, at meals and when traveling for Scout activities.
- b. Class B activity uniform – Troop t-shirt, Scout pants/shorts, Scout socks (worn with Scout shorts) and Scout belt. The Class B uniform is worn on campouts and during the summer months when school is not in session.
- c. **Consequence:** Scouts not wearing the complete and appropriate uniform are not showing Scout Spirit. They are not available to advance until these requirements are met.

4. Troop Functions

- a. **Troop Meetings:** Meetings are held every Monday from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at Shift Church. Patrol meetings are held as part of the Troop meeting. Scouts are expected to attend all meetings in order to be eligible for Troop activities.
- b. **Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leader Attendance:**
 - For SPL and PL to be excused from a campout or activity, they need to call the Scoutmaster with a reason of absence. They need to name the ASPL or APL who will replace them.
- c. **Troop Campouts:** Scouts should work with their Patrol Leader to propose campout ideas. If you need to arrive or leave early from a campout, work with the adult leaders attending the campout. Campouts always require at least two trained adult leaders in attendance. In the event two adult leaders are not able to attend the campout, the campout will be canceled and may be rescheduled. Campouts are not typically canceled because of bad or cold weather.
 - i. **Campout Fees:**
 - Scouts will RSVP on the particular event on the ScoutBook calendar prior to the registration deadline set by the PLC. The Treasurer will take any campout fees from their Scout account following the event.
 - In most cases, Scouts can cancel and not pay campout fees if they notify the Scoutmaster by Thursday at 12:00 pm. prior to the campout. Scouts who cancel after this time will pay the full fee for the campout to cover the food purchase. Some Council and District events may have shorter cancellation windows.
- d. **Fun Night:** Any month with five meeting nights will be a month with a “fun night”. The fun night may be held on the fifth Monday of the month.
 - **Consequence:** Scouts not meeting the definition of active cannot attend fun night activities.
- e. **Electronics:**
 - Electronics can be used during transportation to and from events, provided headphones are used.
 - The Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters can provide cell phones if needed to call home.
 - Cell phones can be used during certain Scout activities. For example, Scouts may use their phones for taking scenic photos or photos of Scouts in action, a GPS device for orienteering or recording activities in ScoutBook.
 - Electronic devices should not be used for social media or gaming during Scout activities.
 - Earbuds are allowed during the filling of sandbags, provided the Scout can still properly hear and communicate with leaders and other Scouts.
 - **Consequence:** Electronics will be confiscated during the meeting/activity.

- 5. Troop Elections:** Elections for Troop and Patrol offices will be held twice a year – February and August.
- Nominations for Troop positions are announced the week before the Troop election. This will allow Scouts to prepare a **meaningful** speech to deliver on Troop election night.
 - If a Scout needs a Troop position to advance and they are not elected, they can request a special assignment from the Scoutmaster.
- a. **Election Speech:**
- All Scouts who run for a position on the Troop level, **must prepare a meaningful speech** to deliver on election night.
 - This is not required on the Patrol level, but it is suggested. The Senior Patrol Leader and the Assistant Patrol Leaders can all be from the same Patrol.
 - Key points to include in the speech:
 1. Name and currently held position
 2. Positions held in the past
 3. Reasons why they should be elected for the position
 - **Consequence:** Speeches thrown together at the last minute will result in the nomination being withdrawn from the election.
- b. **Election Eligibility:**
- To be eligible for a position, a Scout **must be active** (by current Troop Bylaws) in the Troop.
 - The Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders must be a First Class Scout.
 - **Consequence:** Scouts not meeting the eligibility requirements cannot run for a position.
- c. **Scout Leadership Positions:**
- Leadership positions are necessary for advancement. The requirements for these positions will be explained prior to the election and are also stated in the Scout Handbook.
 - **Consequence:** Any Scout not fulfilling the duties of his position, or the attendance requirements, can be removed by decision of the Patrol, and the time spent will not count toward advancement requirements.
- 6. Patrol Leader Council (PLC):**
- a. The Troop is run by the PLC, consisting of all Troop positions (SPL, ASPL, Scribe, Quartermaster, etc.) and all Patrol Leaders. The PLC meets on the first Monday of the month at 6:00 pm.
 - b. Scouts and Assistant Scoutmasters who do not belong to the PLC can attend as observers only. They do not have a vote in the PLC.
 - c. Attendance for PLC leadership is mandatory!
- 7. Financial Account:** The Troop will maintain an Individual Scout Account (ISA) for each Scout. Scouts can use their account money for any Scout related activity such as campouts, summer camps, Scout equipment, uniforms, fun night and dues.
- a. **Fundraisers:** Money from designated fundraisers (popcorn and sandbag sales) will be credited to the Individual Scout Accounts of those Scouts who participated in the fundraiser.
 - b. **Dues:** Dues are \$5.00/month. Dues will automatically be deducted from the Scouts ISA by the Troop Treasurer.

- c. **National/High Adventure Activities:** Monies raised for National Accounts is handled by a separate committee. Balances are available at any time by request to the Scoutmaster.
- d. **Scout Leaves the Troop:** When a Scout leaves the Troop (removed from the charter), they cannot take the money in the Scout account with them unless they are transferring to another Troop that offers Individual Scout Accounts. The Troop will make every effort to allow the departing Scout to use any remaining funds for Scouting-appropriate items as described above.

8. Medical Form:

- All registered Scouts and leaders are required to submit a completed annual BSA Medical Form.

9. Charter:

- The Troops Charter Organization is Shift Church. Scouts are encouraged to provide service to the Charter Organization whenever possible.

10. Adults Title:

- All Adults should be addressed with a title such as Mr. Mrs., Scoutmaster, etc.
- This rule also applies to when one Adult talks to another.

1. Revised June 2019

2. Revised January 2023

Please sign and return to the Scoutmaster once you have read all the bylaws with your parents.

Scout: _____ **Date:** _____