

Amendments Proposed To Troop's Policies And Procedures

Jeff Stone, Committee Chairman

As part of the work conducted at the Annual Adult Leaders Retreat in February, several amendments were proposed to the troop's official Policies and Procedures document. These amendments are intended to clarify the troop's uniforming policy and its policy regarding use of electronic devices by Scouts at troop meetings and on troop outings. The proposed changes are shown below (additions are marked in underline text and deletions are marked in ~~strike-through~~ text).

The first proposed change is to the section on Uniforming:

UNIFORMING: Just as it is important for team sports members to be properly uniformed so they are recognized as a team member, all members of Troop 608 are expected to wear the complete BSA uniform. This consists of the BSA Shirt with red epaulets and appropriate insignia as displayed in the inside front and back covers of the BSA Handbook, BSA belt, BSA shorts or long pants, BSA uniform socks (~~not BSA activity socks~~), and Merit Badge sash. Each scout must also have a copy of the Boy Scout Handbook. If purchasing the uniform becomes a financial problem, this matter should be addressed with the Scoutmaster.

The next proposed change is to the section on Extraneous Equipment:

EXTRANEIOUS EQUIPMENT: ~~Non-essential gear or entertainment equipment, such as hand held electronic games, cards, travel games, etc., must not be taken on troop outings unless permission is granted by the Scoutmaster.~~ Personal entertainment devices, including those with headphones (e.g. iPods, MP3 players, radios, CD players, cassette players, Game Boys or electronic games, DVD players, etc.) are not allowed at troop meetings at any time. Unless announced in advance for a particular trip, these devices are not allowed on troop outings. When allowed on outings, the ~~The~~ responsibility for the security of such items rests on the owner.

The final proposed change is to add a new section regarding the use of cell phones:

CELLPHONES: Cellphones in the possession of Scouts at troop meetings must be turned off for the duration of the meeting. Unless otherwise announced in advance by the Adult Scout Leader in charge, Scouts are not allowed to use cell phones at a Scouting outing for any purpose other than in an emergency. Adults present at scout functions shall exercise discretion in their use of cell phones and other electronic devices during the function.

This announcement in the troop newsletter is intended to satisfy the notice portion of the procedure for amending the Policies and Procedures document, which states:

The procedure for amending or making additions to this document shall be as follows: after the proposal is submitted at a committee meeting, the proposed change or addition must be distributed either by publication in the newsletter or by postcard, and the vote will be taken at the next committee meeting.

A final decision on the proposals will be made at the next meeting of the Troop Committee.