

TROOP 26 GUIDELINES

These guidelines address the specific behavior and expectations of the scouts in Scout Troop 26, sponsored by Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, High Point, North Carolina

1. **All scouts will wear a complete Field Uniform to all functions** unless the Scoutmaster prescribes another uniform. An E-Mail will be sent when a uniform other than Field Uniform (Class A) is specified.
 - a. Field Uniform is the tan scout shirt, green scout pants or shorts, Troop neckerchief, green Scout socks, scout belt, shoes (no open toed or open heel footwear).
 - i. New scouts may either wear the standard BSA neckerchief # 00710 (Navy with Silver Embroidery) or none until they are presented their Troop Neckerchief when they complete 2nd Class.
 1. Neckerchiefs are not required for normal scout meetings
 - ii. Boy Scout hats are not required, but if a hat is worn it must be either Boy Scout related or have no logos of any kind and should be worn appropriately as directed by the Scout Leaders and/or Adult Leaders.
 - b. Activity Uniform (Class B) uniform is a Troop or Scout T-shirt, Scout pants or shorts, Scout socks, Scout belt, shoes. (Hard sole boots are recommended for camping and hiking.)
 2. The PLC (Patrol Leadership Council), under the guidance of the Scoutmaster, is the governing body of the troop.
 - a. PLC will develop and plan the troop program to include all meetings, service projects, camping trips, other outings and activities; including but not limited to, the extent of participation in BSA District and/or Council activities
 - b. Decisions of PLC are subject to the approval of the Scoutmaster and/or Troop Committee.
 3. Troop Meetings / Activities
 - a. Attendance records will be maintained on all scouts for all troop activities.
 - b. Troop Meetings are Monday evenings from 7:15 pm to 8:45pm
 1. PLC Members: 7:00pm – 9pm (PLC will have a short wrap-up/planning meeting following the end of the Troop Meeting)
 - i. Scouts are expected to be at the meeting on time and to be picked up following the meeting in timely manner
 - ii. Scouts are to remain in the Scout Rooms (Saint Edwards Hall) and surrounding hallways. Scouts should always be aware and respectful of other meetings in progress during the same time (before, during, and after) the Troop Meeting or activity. It is NOT OK to be walking in any other part of the church complex.
 1. Use of the phone or other electronic device during scout meeting time is not permitted without permission from a Scoutmaster
 - b. Troop Trips / Activities – A designated assembly place / time will be communicated for troop outings.
 - i. Scouts are expected to be on-time and participant in preparing for the Trip or other activity
 - ii. Scout Pick-up: A parent or prior designated party should be at the church to pick up their Scout(s) when the troop returns from an outing
 1. Scouts or a leader will call when we are approximately 20-30 minutes from the church.
 2. Scouts are expected to fully participate in unloading and cleaning up from the Troop Outing prior to leaving
 - a. Scouts are to seek permission to leave from the SPL
 - c. Scouts will not depart Troop Meetings or Activities prior to the end of the meeting/event without the permission of the Scoutmaster.

- i. Parents should send written notice (email) to the Scoutmaster if their scout is to depart earlier.
- d. Church Building & Grounds - while at scout meetings the scouts will remain in the scout rooms (Saint Edward's hall Rooms B and C), hall between the scout rooms and rest rooms, or outside the building. It is not OK to be walking in any other part of the church complex.
 - i. Scouts may not purchase or consume drinks, chewing gum, candy or food on the church grounds prior to the meeting, during the meeting, or after the meeting without the permission of the Scoutmaster
- e. Scout Behavior – Scouts are expected to listen, be attentive, respectful, and participate throughout all meetings and/or outings
 - i. Use of the cell phones or other electronic devices during scout meeting time is not permitted without permission from a Scoutmaster
 - ii. Scouts who misbehave at Scout meetings or during other activities will be dealt with by the PLC/Adult Leaders. Repetitive misbehavior will result in the parent(s) being notified and could result in the Scout being asked to leave the troop (approval of Troop Committee required).
 - 1. Note: Scouts are not permitted to discipline other Scouts; however, part of a Scout Leaders role is to DIRECT Scouts through meetings, activities, and tasks; therefore, it is appropriate for a Scout to DIRECT another Scout on behavior. If the Scout fails to comply with the direction given the Scout Leader will direct the Scout to an Adult Leader for potential further appropriate action.
- 4. Electronic devices (MP3 Players (Ipods), TVs, Gameboys, PSP, etc.), cigarette lighters, butane or other fuel fire starters, sheath knives, butterfly knives, trading cards, etc. are not permitted at scout meetings, camping trips, or any other troop activity.
 - a. Any of these items found by the adult leadership will be confiscated and returned to the scout's parents. Repeat offenses will be handled through confiscation and the items given to charity or disposed of by other means - they will not be returned to the scout.
 - b. Cell phones must be turned off at meetings and while at all scout functions. If observed or heard ringing they will be confiscated. Cell phones may not be used while on camping trips or at scout camps without permission from the scoutmaster or Trip Leader.
 - c. Scoutmaster or Trip Leader may permit (email announcement) cells phones and/or electronic devices for longer Troop Outings. Once at the designated location all electronics must remain in the vehicle - the Scout will assume all risk for stolen or damaged to the device.
- 5. Scout Participation is defined as 75% (*eg. 18 out of 24 meetings in a 6 month period*) attendance at all Scout meetings, 50% attendance at all outdoor activities, and 50 % attendance at service projects.
 - a. Scouts are encouraged to be well rounded and participate in other activities and sports; however, they must be active during the Rank advance period to be eligible to advance.
 - b. The Scoutmaster has the discretion to make arrangements for Scouts with unique circumstances / obligations / opportunities; however, a **Scout** must take a leadership role and approach the Scoutmaster in order request special arrangements prior to or at least very early on in the Rank Advancement period. Special arrangements or exceptions to the Scout Participation guidelines will be not given in arrears of the Rank Advancement period (i.e. during a Scoutmaster's Conference)
- 6. Scout Leadership is defined as being an active leader, representing the views of their patrol at PLC meetings, communicating information to the Scouts they are responsible for, and meeting the participation guidelines above. (SPL's participation is expected to be a minimum of 85% of all meetings and outings during their term. Additionally, the Scout serving as SPL during the Spring term is expected to attend Summer Camp)
 - a. Participation at PLC meetings is expected to be at least 90%.
 - b. Scout Leader Absence - In the event a Scout Leader is going to be absent from a meeting or outing it is the duty of the Scout Leader to ensure that their duties are covered by another Scout

- c. Scouts serving as an instructor and wanting leadership credit for this role must lead / co-lead at least one skill instruction on their subject of expertise and instruct and pass off two scouts for advancement during the leadership time period.
7. **Food, Candy or Snacks** (other than what is on the Patrol's menu for the camping trip) **is not to be brought on camping trips**. Snack food (candy, chips, cookies, moon pies etc.) interferes with the learning process in regards to cooking, making it very difficult for scouts to earn their advancement.
 8. Due to space limitations on trips, scouts must have all their gear packaged into one unit (i.e. pack, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, etc. connected such that you can pick it all up as one unit). Cots are not allowed on camping trips except for medical reasons or for adults. Patrols are limited to one cooler that is provided by the troop and one food box that is provided by the troop. **Individual coolers are not permitted except for adults**. **Troop tents will be utilized unless otherwise specified by the Scoutmaster**. Scouts may bring a folding chair **that when folded is not larger than the Scoutmasters (6"x36")**.
 9. Troop Payments (Dues, Outing Costs) – Checks made payable to “BSA Troop 26”.
 10. Costs of camping trips, scout camp, and food for trips are additional and will be collected by the designated due date. After the Monday prior to the event the fees are not refundable.
 - a. Scouts, who have not paid for a trip by the Due Date, must seek permission from the Scoutmaster in order to attend the trip. All **Monies for trip expenses after the Due Date must be in cash** as there is no way to get money to patrol members who are purchasing food between Monday night and Friday!
 11. Scouts must have in their possession a current Tote-n-Chip in order to carry or use wood tools (knives, axes, saws, or hand ax). A list of persons authorized to issue Tote-n-Chips will be maintained by the Troop Scribe. For violations of safety practices involving wood tools a corner of the card will be removed along with instructions on how to properly perform the task. Only PLC members and Scoutmasters may remove corners.
 12. On camping trips the Patrols will camp, tent, cook and eat by patrols. Other patrol sites will be off limits at all times to all scouts except PLC members and Adults. Patrol campsites are defined as the fire and cooking area, ax yard, and within 20' of any tents. Exceptions will be approved by the Scoutmaster.
 13. Patrol Grubmaster – the responsibility of the a Scout serving as the “Grubmaster” for a specific camp out are as follows:
 - a. Oversee all meal planning, purchasing, and preparations for the outing
 - i. In conjunction with the Patrol Leader lead preparing a balanced menu and duty utilizing the Troop menu and duty rooster templates.
 1. Present the menu & duty rooster to Scoutmaster or Patrol assigned Assistance Scoutmaster for review and “Sign Off”
 - ii. Purchase Food for the Patrol
 1. Grubmaster will request funds from the Troop Treasure equal to \$13 per Scout (*Amount subject to change...note Scouts purchase their own food for backpacking trips*)
 2. Grubmaster will shop the week before the outing using only the provided Troop funds. (*Parents you may not “help out”...the goal is for the Patrol & the Grubmaster to make budgetary decisions*)
 3. Grubmaster will provide a receipt and all remaining funds not spent to the Troop Treasurer on the day of departure
 4. Grubmaster in conjunction with the Patrol Leader will oversee all meal preparation, cooking, and clean-up is completed utilizing the Patrol Duty Rooster
 14. Scouts, who are backpacking may bring and use their own tent and will tent, cook and eat in pairs. Exceptions must be approved by the Scoutmaster or Venture ASM.
 15. On camping trips the Adult Patrols' tents, campfire, and cooking area is off limits to all scouts except the Senior Patrol Leader.
 16. Adults that accompany the troop on camping trips should remain outside of their son(s) patrol sites unless there is a safety concern that requires immediate intervention. They are encouraged to assist other patrols

through coaching of the patrol leader. Adults accompanying the troop on outings must provide the troop with the applicable health forms and must have taken BSA youth protection.

All parents are encouraged to take youth protection to familiarize themselves with those BSA policies. In order to assure the safety of the scouts, an adult without a scout who is not working with the troop (skills presentations, circle up announcements, fee collection meetings) should not be present at scout meetings or outings outside of that time.

17. Troop Equipment – Scouts are responsible to proper use and maintenance of all Troop equipment.
 - a. Scouts negligently damaging and/or losing equipment will be required to pay for the cost of repairs or the cost of replacing the item(s).
 - b. Scouts will be assigned Tents, Grounds Cloths, and/or other equipment to clean and properly DRY from time to time (mainly after Troop Outings).
 - i. All debris, dirt etc should be cleaned for the item. Tents & ground cloths need to be fully DRIED before being properly rolled/folded.
 - ii. All equipment is to be returned to the Troop Quartermaster at the next meeting. The Quartermaster is responsible for inspecting the equipment and signing off on its appropriate return to the Troop.
18. Scouts should complete all requirements for a merit badge within six months of the date they begin to work on the badge. Partial merit badges earned at camp should be completed prior to Jan 1 of the following year.
19. Scouts with need for financial assistance with dues, uniforms, camping trips, and scout camp, etc. should contact the Scoutmaster. There are many sources of assistance available to provide this funding on a confidential basis. Money should not be a barrier to any scout fully participating in the activities of the troop. Scouts that out grow uniforms are encouraged to donate uniforms or parts of uniforms to the troop for the uniform closet. Any scout in the troop regardless of family financial status is encouraged to utilize the uniforms available through the troop.
20. Parent Involvement / Volunteer Hours – Troop 26 does not have a policy or minimum required number of volunteer hours per family. However, please don't let the lack of a policy or requirement keep you from becoming involved. The Troop needs many skills and efforts to help our Scouts grow and develop into strong leaders as well as just having the opportunity to experience the outdoors. Additionally, you might just find that you get a lot out of it as well