

Boy Scouts of America  
Keystone Area Council



Boy Scout Troop 189

**Policy of Operations  
&  
Conduct**

## Preface

This policy was established in order to define the manner for daily operations of the troop so that the troop may operate in a more efficient manner. All of the following prescribed practices are building upon those of the Boy Scouts of America so that Troop 189 may be unique and provide the highest quality of Scouting Program possible.

“It is fine to have the boys of the country organized for the purposes the Boy Scouts represent, and whenever I see a group of them I am proud of their manliness, and feel cheered by the knowledge of what their organization represents.”

- President Woodrow Wilson, 1915

Approved August 1994  
Revised July 1995 & August 1998

## Article One.

**Section One.** No policy of Boy Scout Troop 189 shall go against a polity or regulation of the Boy Scouts of America or Allison United Methodist Church.

**Section Two.** No policy shall be discriminating to any scout or group of scouts on the basis of age, race, religion, or ethnic background. At all times the Scouts of Troop 189 should conduct themselves in a manner that follows the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

**Section Three.** It is the duty of the Senior Patrol Leader, Scoutmaster, and Troop Committee to ensure the execution of this Policy of Conduct. Methods and Guidelines for an organization to govern itself are only useful when they are followed and enforced. Copies of this policy shall be available for review by all Troop Members and distributed among Troop Leadership.

## Article Two.

### Junior Leaders

**Section One.** All scouts will be eligible to obtain an office of leadership within the troop. Holding a position of responsibility is a privilege and a must be earned by the scout.

**Section Two.** All offices except that of Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader will be for a term of six months. There will be two terms within the scouting season which shall begin September first and end August thirty-first. The first term will begin on September first and will conclude February twenty-eighth. The second term will be from March first to August thirty-first.

The term of Patrol Leader for the New Scout Patrol shall be only three months instead of six in order for each scout to have the opportunity to be patrol or assistant patrol leader.

**Section Three.** The election of officers shall begin two weeks before the ending of the term. The first week nominations of scouts for offices shall be made. If there is more than two scouts nominated to one office then there will be a primary election in which scouts will chose the top two candidates for the office. The second week each candidate will give a speech as to why he should be elected to the office. Than all scouts shall vote by secret ballot, and chose the best candidate. Afterward when all votes have been tallied, those persons that have been elected by the majority, shall be instated into their office as elected. Scouts may campaign for an office for which they are running, but all campaigning must be scout-like. The scout is responsible for cleaning up any campaign materials. Any scout that is unscout-like while campaigning shall be eliminated from being eligible for that office.

**Section Four.** No scout shall be the Senior Patrol Leader, or Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, who, when elected, is not of the age of thirteen, be at least of the rank of first class, have one year of service with the troop, and have completed Junior Leader Training. Exceptions shall be handled at the desecration of the Patrol Leaders Council. The Senior Patrol Leader shall hold the office for ta term of one year, and together with the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader appointed for the same term, carry out the duties of the said office which may be found on pages 13 and 15 of the Junior Leader Handbook.

**Section Five.** The offices of Troop Guide, Instructor, Quartermaster, Scribe, Librarian, Historian, and Chaplain aide will be filled by appointment by the Senior Patrol Leader for a term of six months in which all duties must be carried out as stated on pages 57, and 60 to 63 of the Junior Leader Handbook, under the direction and supervision of the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.

**Section Six.** The Troop may have one or more Junior Assistant Scoutmasters to perform duties as defined by the Scoutmaster and stated in the Junior Leader Handbook. The duties of a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster may not be that of another Junior Leader.

**Section Seven.** From time to time during the term of office, every Junior Leader should be reviewed by their respective higher ranking office. This should be done as a reflection process to evaluate progress and determine strengths and weaknesses, and a plan to build upon them. In the event that a scout does not perform the duties of his office he may be removed by the Scoutmaster, and forfeit any time accumulated for rank advancement while in that office.

**Section Eight.** A scout may not hold more than one elected office at one time. Nor shall any scout be able to hold more than two offices, appointed or elected, at one time. If a scout does hold two offices, the two offices may not be conflicting in nature or directly related.

**Section Nine.** Boy Scout Troop 189 shall compensate for fifty percent of the cost for scouts to attend the Junior Leader Training Conference or any other useful training for scouts at the discretion of the Troop Committee. If any scout were not to complete any training course, they would have to reimburse the troop for its fifty percent.

## **Article Three.**

### **Patrol Leaders Council**

**Section One.** The Patrol Leaders Council shall be composed of the Patrol Leader of each patrol, Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Venture Crew Chief, Varsity Team Captain, and the Troop Guide. The Assistant Patrol Leader would take the place of the Patrol Leader in his absence.

**Section Two.** The Patrol Leaders Council shall assemble at least once a month to discuss any topics that may come before the meeting. The Senior Patrol Leader shall be Chairman of the meeting, and all persons of the Council shall have one vote, per topic .

The Senior Patrol Leader has the power to call a special meeting of the Patrol Leaders Council to address a problem or a special topic. Notice of such meeting must be given at least two days in advance.

**Section Three.** The Patrol Leaders Council shall keep a journal of its minutes and actions. Into it shall be entered total enumeration of yeas and nays of a vote, and those persons present of each meeting. The Scribe shall attend the meeting to record such information but has no vote, unless the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader performs such duties, then the scribe need not attend.

The Patrol Leaders Council shall choose their officers to perform any duties that shall be called upon.

**Section Four.** The Scoutmaster and Assistants should attend the meetings of the Patrol Leaders Council. They have no vote and are not in charge of the meeting although they should be in attendance to provide guidance and approval of topics. The Scoutmaster would have a vote on a topic only in the case that the Patrol Leaders Council is equally divided on a topic. A Scoutmaster may abstain from a vote. One Assistant Scoutmaster may have a vote when performing the role of Scoutmaster.

**Section Five.** In order for a meeting of the Patrol Leaders Council to be held a quorum of fifty percent of the Council, but no less than three, must be present to conduct business. If a quorum is not present at a meeting, then the meeting shall adjourn until there is a quorum present.

## **Article Four.**

### **Patrol Organization**

**Section One.** Troop 189 shall be composed of 3 levels of patrols. There will be the New Scout Patrols, Experienced Scout Patrols, a Venture Crew or/and Varsity Team. All Patrols shall be made of approximately three to eight scouts if possible.

**Section Two.** The New scout patrol will be for scouts who have just joined scouting. They will be aided by the Troop Guide but still have a patrol leader. They have not been in scouting for more than one year, nor have they reached the rank of First Class.

**Section Three.** The Experienced scout patrols will be for scouts who have been in scouting for one year. They are no longer the young scouts because a group of new scouts have just joined. These scouts should have reach or close to the rank of First Class.

**Section Four.** The Venture/Varsity program shall be for scouts that are at least the age of fourteen and the rank of Star. The program should be exclusively for those scouts that have earned the privilege to deserve a more advance scouting program based on their reputation as a Scout and how they have conducted themselves in a scout like manner. The Venture/Varsity program should be limited to the lesser of twelve scouts or thirty percent of the Troop.

To become a member of the Venture/Varsity Program an interested scout shall notify the Patrol Leaders Council of their interest. The Patrol Leaders' Council shall decide if the scout has the skills and scout ethics that are required to be a Venture/Varsity Scout. If the Patrol Leaders' Council approves the application it should be sent to the Venture/Varsity Scouts who will vote on the application. If the Venture/Varsity scouts approve the application it is sent to the Scoutmaster for final approval. In the event that either body, The Patrol Leaders' Council or Venture Crew/Varsity Team, denies membership to an applicant the other body may approve the application by a two-thirds vote and approval of the scoutmaster.

In the event that a scout joins the Troop specifically for the Venture/Varsity Program he shall be given a grace period of one year to earn the rank of Star. If after six months the scout has not earned the rank of first class or one year and Star, he shall be removed from the Venture/Varsity Program until he earns the necessary rank.

**Section Five.** Every Patrol will have a patrol leader. All scouts of a patrol shall be eligible to be the Patrol Leader of a patrol. The patrol leader's duties are as stated on page 28 of the Junior Leader handbook. The assistant patrol leader shall be appointed by the patrol leader for the same term.

The Patrol Leader may appoint a patrol scribe, cook, quartermaster, or any other needed position. Duties of which may be found on page 30 - 35 of the Patrol Leaders Handbook.

**Section Six.** The Patrol Leader shall have the authority to deal with any disciplinary problems within his patrol. If the problem continues it should be brought to the attention of the Senior Patrol Leader, then to the Scoutmaster. It is the Patrol Leader's responsibility to set the standard as to what will be acceptable. All scouts should always conduct themselves to the Scout Oath and Law.

## **Article Five.**

### **Attendance and Uniforms**

**Section One.** All scouts and leaders shall be encouraged to have good attendance of all troop functions, activities, and meetings. It is imperative for rank advancement that a scout has good attendance.

**Section Two.** From time to time the Patrol Leaders' Council may make certain meetings mandatory in order to attend a particular activity or event. Notice of these meetings shall be given at least ten days in advance.

**Section Three.** In order for a scout to be marked present he must be in uniform or have made an attempt. The Scout uniform is part of scouting. A scout would be marked present if he had a good reason for not wearing his uniform, which is at the discretion of the Scoutmaster. Each patrol shall be responsible for recording its own attendance under the direction of the Patrol Leader. The attendance record shall be turned into the Troop Scribe for review and storage in a manner directed by the Senior Patrol Leader. Attendance records shall be made available to Boards of Review for their interest.

**Section Four.** The class A uniform will be considered the proper uniform from September first thru March thirty-first for all troop meetings. The class B uniform will be used the rest of the time, unless stated otherwise by the Scoutmaster, Senior Patrol Leader, or Patrol Leader depending on the activity, and which leader is in charge.

**Section Five.** The Troop shall offer all scouts an opportunity to obtain uniforms from the troops supply. Any scout that does obtain any used shorts, slacks, shirts, both class A and B, will be charged five dollars per article of clothing. Scouts obtaining used belts and socks will be charged one dollar a piece. A scout that obtains any new articles will pay the full cost of the article.

If a scout gives a item of one size for a used item of another size, he will not be charged anything. If a scout gives a item for a new item he will be charged the difference in the cost. ( Ex. Scout gives class B shirt for new Class B shirt he would be charged seven dollars. - Twelve for new shirt subtract five for used shirt equals seven as the difference. )

## **Article Six.**

### **Equipment**

**Section One.** All scouts shall be eligible to borrow Troop equipment for any troop activity. Any equipment loaned to a scout is that scout's responsibility.

**Section Two.** Boy Scout Troop 189 shall not be responsible for personal gear. It is the owner's responsibility to be sure that all gear and items are used properly, and kept in a safe place.

**Section Three.** The following rules shall apply to all scouts:

Equipment must be returned within two scout meetings following the return from a trip or activity that equipment was borrowed

Any broken equipment must be replaced by the scout at fault and he will pay full replacement cost at the discretion of the Troop Committee.

Before gear can be returned to the troop it must be cleaned of any debris or soils.

All equipment shall be loaned on a first come first serve basis.

Any scout that returns equipment late without probable cause will be required to pay a fine of one dollar per day late.

## **Article Seven.**

### **Amendments**

**Section One.** Whenever the Patrol Leaders' Council shall deem it necessary, changes or revisions may be made to this Policy of Conduct. The Troop Committee, and Scoutmaster may ask for revisions if necessary or appropriate. Any changes or revisions must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Patrol Leaders' Council, and approved by the Scoutmaster and Troop Committee in order to made valid.