

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Statement of Understanding: All youth participants and their parents or guardians are asked to sign the Statement of Understanding and Code of Conduct as a condition of participation, with the further understanding that serious misconduct or infraction of established rules and regulations may result in expulsion, at the participant's expense, from the scouting event. Ultimately we want each participant to be responsible for his or her own behavior, and only when necessary will the procedure be invoked.

All youth and adult participants are expected to abide by the Code of Conduct as follows:

1. The unit's adult leadership (Scoutmaster or Advisor and assistants) is responsible for the supervision of its membership in respect to maintaining discipline and security, and the participant Code of Conduct.
2. The Scout Oath and Law and Venturing Oath will be my guide throughout the scouting program.
3. I will set a good example by keeping myself neatly dressed and presentable. (The official Scout uniform/ Venturing field uniform and scouting program identifying items are the only acceptable apparel at appropriate, specified times.)
4. I will attend all scheduled programs and will participate as required in cooperation with other unit members and leadership.
5. In consideration of other unit participants, I agree to follow the bedtime and other schedules of the unit, or as otherwise directed by the scouting program.
6. I will be responsible for keeping my tent and personal gear labeled, clean, and neat. I will adhere to all scouting program recycling policies and regulations. I will do my share to prevent littering of the scouting program grounds.
7. I understand that the purchase, possession, and consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs by any youth members are prohibited.
8. Serious and/or repetitive violations by youth including use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs, and cheating, stealing, dishonesty, swearing, fighting, and cursing may result in expulsion from the scouting program or serious disciplinary action and loss of privileges. The scouting program administrator **must be contacted** for the expulsion procedure to be invoked. **There are no exceptions.**
9. I understand that gambling of any form is prohibited.
10. I understand that possession and detonation of fireworks are prohibited.
11. I will demonstrate respect for unit and scouting program property and be personally responsible for any loss, breakage, or vandalism of property as a result of my actions.
12. Neither the unit leader, nor the Scouting program Division, BSA, will be responsible for loss, breakage, or theft of my personal items. I will label all my personal items and check items of value at the direction of unit leaders. Theft will be grounds for expulsion.
13. While participating in the scouting program activities, I will obey the safety rules and instructions of all supervisors and staff members.
14. All participants are prohibited from having firearms and weapons in possession in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and the laws of all countries they visit.
15. All participants will be guided by the Scout Oath and Scout Law and Venturing Oath and will obey the laws of all properties they visit.
16. Scoutmasters or Advisors and assistant Scoutmasters must receive Youth Protection training prior to pre-scouting program training and must follow the guidelines therein.
17. Hazing has no place in Scouting; nor does running the gauntlet, belt lines, or similar physical punishment. Leaders and older youth must prevent all youth from being "initiated" into the unit with a hazing activity.
18. Adult leaders should have the good judgment to avoid trading souvenirs or patches with a child or youth member in Scouting. Youth members may trade with other youth members. Adults leaders may trade only with other adults 18 years of age or older.
19. Adult leaders and youth leaders must instruct youth to avoid confrontation with groups, demonstrations, or hecklers, and must assume a passive reaction to name-calling from individuals or groups. Units or groups must be removed from the area of potential conflict immediately.
20. Serious violation of this Code of Conduct may result in expulsion from the scouting program at the participant's own expense. All decisions will be final.

I certify I have read the **Statement of Understanding** and agree to abide by the conditions in the **Code of Conduct** as a participant in the troop or crew attending the scouting program.

Signature of participant _____ Date _____

Signature of parent or guardian _____ Date _____

(If participant is younger than 21)