Troop 219G Policies and Guidance

Policies

Scouts and Scouters in Troop 219G will comply with the published policies of Scouts BSA, the National Capital Area Council, and the local hosting location (such as a campground, national park, etc.).

The following rules and guidance provide clarification in a few specific areas to help our Scouts and Scouters understand expectations.

## Inclusion (Nov. 2022)

Troop 219G prides itself on accepting Scouts from all backgrounds. We do not tolerate any actions or language that attempts to exclude or is derogatory to others and their backgrounds or identity. We offer a safe space for all. We are determined to give every participant the greatest opportunity for a positive experience in all our activities.

To that end, and consistent with Scouts BSA rules, Troop 219 does not tolerate actions and/or language that are inconsistent with providing a safe place and a positive experience for all participants. Unacceptable actions and language include, but are not limited to, drug, alcohol, or tobacco use; bullying; hazing; slandering; labeling; or ostracizing.

As a youth organization, Scouting and the Scouters are concerned for all our scouts, including any scouts who engage in unacceptable behavior. The Scouters will work with the parents of Scouts engaging in unacceptable behavior to support them getting help and a plan to return to the troop activities after the resolution of any such actions. The Scout, the unit leaders, and the parents will work together to reach agreement and understanding of the criteria for the Scout’s return.

Use of Smart Phones (May 2023)
Part of the purpose of Camping and Outdoor activities is to disconnect from daily living and be with nature. Over the past 4 years, Troop 219G has found smart phones to be disruptive to such a purpose.

At the same time, smart phones are an incredible technology and can enhance the scouting program. Such uses include accessing Scoutboook.org, using teaching aides for scout skills, taking photographs of scout activities, playing music for troop.

Therefore, the policy of the scout troop is:

1. Phones are for use by Scouters and Scouts 1st class or above.
2. Scouts and Scouters are to use phones only for the good of the troop. Scouters, if checking work email during an outdoor activity is the only way one can attend the event, then such use is to the good of the troop.
3. Headphone, air pods, ear buds are not permitted for Scouts or Scouters.
4. Scouts under 1st class will provide their phone to Scouter in charge, at the rally point (start of trip), to be stored in lockbox dedicated to this purpose. It will be returned at the end of the trip.
5. Any Scout 1st class or above not following this policy will turn over their phone to the Scouter in Charge and it will be stored in lockbox for the remainder of the activity.
6. Any Scouter not following this policy will discuss with Scouter in Charge.
7. Corrections and consequences: In order to de-escalate unhealthy situations, Scout leaders may place the phones of all Scouts in a temporary quarantine. Leaders may place the phones in quarantine while discussing the actions, expectations, and mutual commitments of everyone towards the Scout Oath and Scout Law. If the mutual atmosphere of respect and cooperation does not improve, the leaders may extend the quarantine for as long as necessary during the Scouting activity.

In Summary:

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| Who | May use this device | Under these circumstances |
| No one | Headphones, air pods, or ear buds that conceal the audio output of a phone | In any Scouting activities |
| Scouts at First Class rank and above | Phone | 1) To look up information, reference material, and resources for Scouting activities, consistent with the Youth Protection Policy and the Guide to Safe Scouting.2) To take photos or short video segments, consistent with the Youth Protection Policy and the Guide to Safe Scouting.3) To play or show audio/video content that is consistent with the purpose of the Scouting activity. |
| All Scouts | Phone | When necessary to speak with a health care professional, consistent with the Scout’s documented health-care needs. |
| Scouters | Phone | 1) As the published contact phone number for the troop during a trip or event.2) For logistical arrangements, reservations, or coordination with campground/park officials.3) For work requirements when it is otherwise not possible for the adult to attend the Scouting activity. |

## Public Display of Affection (Sept. 2021)

No public displays of affection between scouts regardless of relationship “status.” This is a requirement of the Youth Protection Policy of Scouts BSA.

Scouts will be given reminders. If such an approach does not address behavior, then other steps will be taken.

## Photography / Social Media (Sept. 2021)

Pictures can only be taken in public places – that excludes tents, bathrooms, showers, locker rooms, etc.

Also, scouts and scout activities may not be posted on private social media accounts including snap chat, Facebook and Instagram. This is also within the national guidelines.

# Guidance

## Practical Attire (May 2023)

Scouting activities require practical attire. Unfortunately, much of what is sold to young women as “Juniors” clothing does not meet scouting needs. Rather “Juniors” clothing uses designs and materials for fashion, rather than for the function of the outfit. The outdoor Scouting program takes a toll on casual-wear clothing. Durable clothing is more suitable for most Scouting activities. Brands such as Scouts BSA, REI, Patagonia, and similar are good resources and can be thrifted for substantial savings. A large supply of class B and camp shirts is also good.

Clothing should also be selected for maximum coverage given the temperature. Lightweight but long sleeve shirts and pants cut down on the opportunity for sunburns, rashes, poison ivy, bug bites, etc. At the very least, good socks and knee length shorts should be used during summertime.

The challenges of practical clothing also apply to swimwear. Scouts and parents should bear in mind that many aquatics-based activities can inflict harsh wear and tear on fashion-style bathing suits. Canoe seats, life preservers, ropes, and metal/wood components of boats can be unforgiving upon lightweight materials. If a bathing suit does not have durable style and material, a layer of more durable shorts and/or a shirt may protect it from the punishment. Durable swim shirts and shorts also significantly reduce the chances of sunburn.

Some camps have the rule that swim wear must be one piece. The leaders of Troop 219 recognize that is one size fits all approach may not work for some scouts. We believe that one or two pieces does not matter so long as the swim wear is practical for scout activities.

## Tenting (Sept 2021)

In general tents are for sleeping. Activities like card games, conversations, etc. are best in the communal areas so that all scouts have an opportunity to participate. Sometimes this guideline is not appropriate, such as in the case of bad weather. The SPL and Scouters may choose not to implement this guideline based on the on-site situation.