

**Boy Scout Troop 18
Plaistow, NH**

BY-LAWS

June 2014 Revision

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A. General

Throughout this article, adult leadership will be defined as the Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters. Junior leadership will be as defined in the Scoutmaster's Handbook.

1. Any problem, at any time, should be brought to the attention of the adult troop leadership, even though you may consider it trivial. This must be done so that the proper action can be taken prior to the problem becoming a larger one.
2. Within six months of membership, it is expected that a Scout will have his full uniform as defined by Troop 18. Each Scout will wear his uniform, at least shirt, pants, sash, and troop neckerchief to all scouting formal functions (unless directed to do otherwise). At least the shirt, pants, and neckerchief are expected to be worn to all weekly Troop meetings by Scouts. Field uniform Troop tee shirt and hat will be worn to all other functions (unless directed to do otherwise).
3. Each Scout will be expected to conduct himself in accordance with the principles and ideals of the Scouting Program as stated in the Boy Scout Handbook. Favoritism will not be tolerated in any form. Each Scout is to be treated equally and given equal assistance.
4. Scouts are expected to attend regularly scheduled meetings.

5. If, at any time, any Scout (or his parents) feel they have been mistreated or unfairly judged, they should promptly meet with the Scoutmaster to properly resolve the situation.
6. Personal items lost or damaged at scouting functions are the responsibility of the individual.
7. Adult Troop leadership shall have the right to confiscate any item from a Scout that they feel is disruptive to the meeting or event. The item will be returned at the discretion of the adult Troop leadership.
8. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster at their discretion may bar a Scout from Troop meetings or functions for a period of two weeks for misconduct. The Troop Committee Chairman and parents will be notified. Any action causing additional disciplinary actions beyond this period must be brought before the Troop Committee for disposition.
9. A Scout can be suspended from the Troop for any of the following infractions:
 - a) Deliberate destruction or damaging of Troop equipment or property belonging to someone else. Person or persons responsible for damage are responsible for repair of the equipment to the satisfaction of the Scoutmaster.
 - b) Smoking during a scouting function.
 - c) Possession of illegal drugs or alcohol at any scouting function.
 - d) Constant disrespect of either junior or adult troop leadership. At the discretion of the Scoutmaster, the parent(s) or guardian(s) of any Scout causing a disturbance may be called to come immediately to the meeting, or event (wherever it may be), to pick up their son.
 - e) Violation of rules as set forth within these Charter By-Laws, as well as violation of common sense actions.
 - f) Hazing -threatening or deliberately causing bodily harm.

10. Discipline Policy --The following is to be used for serious incidents of misconduct by Troop 18 Scouts during the Scouting year. When a serious offense has occurred, a presentation will be required by the Scoutmaster of the Scout's past twelve month's scouting record to the members of the Troop Committee. Based on that record, the Committee will determine appropriate disciplinary action. Any disciplinary action determined by the Troop Committee will require a majority vote of the Committee members present. The Scout's parent(s) and/or guardian(s) will be notified in writing by certified letter of any disciplinary actions to be taken. A written record will be forwarded to the Troop Committee Secretary for filing purposes. This could include expulsion from the Troop.

11. Parents may not leave scouts at any function or meeting until acknowledged by an adult leader. No scout shall leave a Boy Scout meeting or function without informing adult leadership.
12. Transporting Scouts:
 - a) No Scout may take his own car on a troop campout or day trip.
 - b) All Scouts must travel in vehicles with adult leaders.
 - c) When traveling, first and last vehicles must have a mode of contact (cell phone, radio) in case there is a problem. Try to keep vehicles in sight.
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13. Types of Scout Activities
 - a) Campout
 - Generally 1 1/2 -2 days long.
 - Must have at least two trained ASMs and/or SM.
 - Try to include parent volunteers to develop their knowledge of campout procedures.
 - All scouts must be registered with Troop 18 and have attended the previous meeting unless given permission by the SM.
 - All adult leaders should have youth protection training.
 - Leaders should have a backup plan if needed.
 - Follow B.S.A. safety guidelines. (IE Tour Permits, Permission Slips and any other applicable paperwork)
 - b) Day Trip
 - Same structure as listed for campouts.
 - No lodging required -go and return same day.
 - Troop 18 Scouts only and guest invited by Troop Leadership
 - c) Family Trip
 - Not a Scouting activity -no tour permit.
 - Scouts and family members may go.
 - Parents assume liability, not troop.
 - Lodging requirements as discretion of trip organizer if required.
 - No SM or AMS required but can also attend
14. Troop 18 shall be responsible for clearing Plaistow Town Forest paths twice a year. Once in the Spring and once in the Fall.

B. Youth Protection Guidelines

1. The Troop Committee and adult troop leadership have a responsibility to report any concerns regarding child abuse to the district executive, as outlined by BSA National.
2. No adult(s) may sleep with any Scout(s) in tents regardless of relationship unless otherwise approved by Troop Leadership prior to the event Scouts and adults may, however, sleep in the same building.
3. All interaction will be in group form with two-deep leadership.
4. All adult Scout leaders require youth protection training.

C. Safety

- 1 Scouts are not permitted to possess firearms at scouting functions.
- 2 Drinks or food in glass containers are prohibited on hikes, camp outs or at Troop meetings.
- 3 Pyrotechnics (firecrackers, fireworks, etc.) will not be permitted at any scouting function.
- 4 No Scouts or leaders are allowed to bring fixed blade knives to any scouting function except kitchen tools.
- 5 A Scout should always bring his Registration, Totin' Chip and Firem'n Chit cards to all campouts, special events and summer camp.
- 6 No open flames, of any kind, are permitted in tents.
- 7 It shall be mandatory that the Troop carry a first aid kit on any event.
- 8 Drivers of vehicles transporting Scouts must be 21 years of age or older. Transportation of personnel in the rear of any truck is strictly forbidden. Truck beds are to be used for the transportation of equipment only. Scouts may NOT bring their own vehicles.

D. Participation

1. Scouts and parents must support and participate in Troop fund raising activities.
2. Scouts must attend the meeting prior to campouts or other troop activities to be eligible to participate in that activity, unless excused by the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster(s).
3. It should be understood that the adult Troop leaders are not always available to provide transportation to Troop events. In this case parents will be required to provide transportation.
4. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster(s) shall establish the requirements for participation in any Troop event.
5. Should a regularly scheduled troop meeting need to be canceled, all Scouts will be notified by phone. The Scoutmaster will contact the SPL and PLs who will contact each scout.
6. Standard policy: If Timberlane District school is canceled, the Troop meeting is automatically canceled.
7. Only the Scoutmaster or designee can cancel a Scout function.
8. Any Scout who cancels his participation in an event shall forfeit all fees paid, except by the approval of the Troop Committee or Scoutmaster.
9. Only registered scouts are allowed on Troop activities and outings unless specifically designated by the SM as a recruiting activity.
10. It is expected that all parents/guardians of Troop 18 Boy Scouts understand the Troop requirement of 80% attendance at all troop activities and the wearing of uniforms.
11. During Plaistow Old Home Day in 2039, the time capsule buried on June 27th, 2009 shall be excavated and opened by Troop 18. The time capsule is buried next to the Town Hall south corner at coordinates: 42.83732,-71.09499.

E. Troop Equipment

1. All Troop equipment, with the exception of camp tools, must be signed out by the Quartermaster, or the Quartermaster's assistants prior to being taken home. Camp tools, i.e., bow saws, axes, hand axes, and camp shovels, can not be signed out for this purpose at any time.

2. All Scouts taking Troop equipment home are responsible for that equipment until such time as it is returned to, and signed in by, the Quartermaster, or the Quartermaster's assistants. The typical duration of the loan will be from one to two weeks. Troop equipment that has been taken home will be returned at the designated time, clean, and in the same or better condition than it was in when it was signed out. Any damage to the borrowed equipment is the responsibility of the borrower.
3. Use of any fuels shall be per BSA National Policy.
4. A Quartermaster inventory report will be required yearly.

F. Food Purchases

1. Prior to any camp out or function, menus and itemized purchase lists shall be submitted to the Scoutmaster.
2. Once a menu is checked, Scouts are not permitted to alter it without the approval of the Scoutmaster or the Assistant Scoutmaster(s).

G. Board of Review

1. As per direction from BSA National, Boards of Review will be conducted on a regular basis, The purpose is not to re-test for any rank, but rather a time to encourage the scout to continue on his pursuit of advancement.
2. Boards of review are to be held for all Scouts, not just those who are advancing, as this time can be used to encourage Scouts who are not advancing.
3. The Board of Review shall consist of three at least committee members for all advancement except for Eagle.

H. Troop Committee and Troop Appointments

1. Membership on the Troop Committee is open to all parents and interested parties 18years of age or older.

2. All adult Troop leadership will be selected and approved by the Committee Chair and the Committee.
3. All appointments to Committee and Troop are dependent upon the completion and approval of the Adult Application Form.
4. The Troop Committee's primary responsibilities are:
 - a) To select the best possible person to serve as Scoutmaster; and
 - b) To help the Scoutmaster carry out a good Troop program.
 - c) To keep these By-Laws up to date.
5. The Scoutmaster, with the approval of the Troop Committee, appoints the Assistant Scoutmaster (s).
6. Troop Committee should meet once a month through out the year, usually on the second Monday of the month.

I. Fiscal Oversight

The purpose of this provision is not to audit the financial books on a monthly basis, but rather to have the bank statement(s) and check register(s) reviewed for consistency. This task is not intended to be time intensive.

1. The Troop Committee Secretary or Committee member without check signing authority shall view the Troop bank statements within 3 weeks of receipt by the Treasurer in order to verify the checking/savings account balance(s).
2. The individual responsible for reviewing the financial books will be elected at a Troop Committee meeting if the Troop Committee Secretary cannot assume this role.
3. Troop Committee members, the Troop Scoutmaster and Troop Assistant Scoutmasters may also be present as the Troop checking/savings accounts are reviewed.

J. Campership Eligibility Requirements

1. Must be registered in the Troop for at least 1 year and show involvement in Troop activities and active advancement of at least 1 rank in the past calendar year. (Unless the candidate is Life rank and working towards the rank of Eagle Scout.)
2. Scout must participate in youth fundraisers that will allow them to earn money towards camp. Funds in the youth account must supplement any campership funds. If the scout does not actively participate in at least 50% of the fundraising activities offered to them a campership will not be considered.
3. Parents of the youth must actively participate in Troop fundraisers as required by Troop By-Laws.

Campership Funds must come from the Troop Hardship account or from Troop Fundraisers that have been designated by vote of the Troop Committee to apply towards summer camp. Funds are not to be taken from the Troop operating account unless by vote of the committee, where it is determined that the Troop operating account is funded in excess of Troop needs.

Funds may come from donations specified for Campership use.

Campership funds available in any given year will be split equally among any boys needing help in funding summer camp.

Any additional funds that are beyond what the Troop can provide in any given year will be the responsibility of the family.

K. Ratification

The preceding Charter By-laws have been adopted by the Troop Committee on June 9th, 2014 and may be amended from time to time, with the approval and vote of the Troop Committee.