



# Scout Behavior and Self-Discipline



## Background

The Scoutmasters and the Troop Committee of Troop 925 recognize the need to maintain and improve communications related to behavioral expectations and counseling.

## Purpose

Boy Scouts, worldwide, are thought of as courteous and self disciplined. When a Scout does not live up to this standard, he discredits the name of all good Scouts, as well as his own. Therefore, an understanding of what is courteous and self disciplined behavior; and the consequences associated with not meeting these expectations, must be understood and acknowledged by the members of this Troop. Without courtesy and self discipline, Scouting can not be a rewarding experience.

## Expectations

A Scout should be true to the traditions of Scouting. The three duties of the Scout Oath and the twelve points of the Scout Law shall guide a Scout's behavior and the foundation of his self discipline. Below are examples to show how to put these ideals into practice.

- A Scout shows courtesy to others in word and deed
- A Scout plays games fairly, by the rules
- A Scout helps others
- A Scout respects the property of others
- A Scout follows the instructions of youth and adult leaders
- A Scout stands tall and proud for the Pledge of Allegiance
- A Scout wears his uniform

## Consequences

Actions that can be brought by Youth Leaders, Scoutmasters, Troop Committee Member, and parents, can initiate to counsel or discipline a Scout include:

**Instruction** - A Youth Leader, Scoutmaster, Troop Committee Member or Parent may request a Scout to stop or change his behavior or actions; because, they are not acceptable for the current activity; or, are unsafe. If necessary, a Youth Leader, Scoutmaster, Troop Committee Member or Parent may instruct a Scout to: cease participating in the current activity and be separated from the Troop, until the Scout is able to participate in an appropriate manner.

**Warning** - A Youth Leader, Scoutmaster, Troop Committee Member, or Parent may warn the Scout that: disregard of instructions, or a recurrence of the discourtesy, or lack of self discipline, may result in a Scoutmaster Conference or a Behavioral Board of Review.

**Removal from Troop Function** – In addition to Instruction or Warning, the senior Scoutmaster present at a troop function has the authority to have the parent remove the Scout from any troop function, if - in the Scoutmaster's opinion - the Scout cannot conform to the behavioral requirements of that event. The Scoutmaster must notify the committee, and a Scoutmaster Conference shall be conducted regarding the inappropriate behavior, as soon as reasonably possible.

**Scoutmaster Conference** - The Scoutmaster, or an Assistant Scoutmaster, will counsel a Scout who continues to disregard instructions and warnings that his behavior is unacceptable to the principles of Scouting and the leaders of his Troop. The Scoutmaster, or Assistant Scoutmaster, will try to reach an understanding with the Scout as to why the Scout's behavior is unacceptable, and receive a commitment from him to change his behavior. If the Scoutmaster believes it is necessary, he may offer the Scout, (in lieu of referring the Scout to a Behavior Board of Review,) a "Behavior Plan."

**A "Behavior Plan" may include:**

1. Removal from a leadership position.
2. Defining a course of action and a time period in which the Scout must demonstrate good behavior.
3. Requiring a parent to accompany the Scout at Troop activities; such as, meetings and camp outs
4. Suspending the Scout from future Troop activities; such as, camp outs or meetings.

If a Scout is to be presented a "Behavior Plan," his parents must be invited to the Scoutmaster Conference, and another Scoutmaster, Troop Committee Member or Charter Organization Representative must be present for the conference. The Scout may; either, accept the Behavior Plan; or, be referred to a Behavior Board of Review.

**Behavior Board of Review** – Scouts who are continually in need of counseling by Scoutmasters, exhibit extreme discourtesy, or lack self discipline, will sit before a Behavior Board of Review. The Troop Committee Chairman, in consultation with the Charter Organization Representative, will appoint the Behavior Board of Review. Depending on the behavioral history and attitude of the Scout on review, the Board will make a decision as to the Scout's continued participation in Troop activities. Options available to the Board include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Defining a course of action and a time period in which the Scout must demonstrate good behavior.
2. Requiring a parent to accompany the Scout at Troop activities, meetings, camp outs, etc.
3. Suspend the Scout from future Troop activities such as, camp outs or meetings.
4. Dismissal of the Scout from the Troop.

