

Troop 109 Electronics Policy

General Guidelines

This policy applies to the use of all electronic devices by youth members during any and all troop and/or patrol meetings, events, and outings. Electronic devices are defined as all computers, laptop computers, tablet computers, hybrid tablet computers, cellular devices, portable music/video devices, and any other electronics designed for communication and/or entertainment.

1. Use the technology to build relationships with the troop, find useful information, and communicate and share excitement about Scouting.
2. Updates to social sites/apps using appropriate photos or video clips to share and build excitement about Scouting.
3. Do not allow technology to detract from the outdoor experience, the program experience, or the Scouting experience for the troop or patrol.

The Electronics Policy of Troop 109 ('the troop') follows the points of the Scout Law. By registering as a member of the troop, all youth members and parents/guardians of the troop agree to abide by the policies detailed by the electronics policy. Furthermore, failure to comply with the Electronics Policy may result in a youth member being removed from a troop or patrol event, to include parental transportation from the event at no cost to the troop. Inappropriate use of electronic devices during troop or patrol events may result in a Scoutmaster Conference to address youth member behavior. Failure to follow the Electronics Policy may result in confiscation of electronic devices by adult leaders of the troop.

At any time, the Senior Patrol Leader and/or Scoutmaster can suspend this Electronics Policy for the troop and install a no electronic devices policy. In such a case, the policy will undergo an automatic review by both youth and adult leadership. Reinstatement of this Electronics Policy requires agreement from both the Senior Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster.

(Initial trial period runs from 10/1/2015 through 3/31/16. Policy suggestions should be made to the Senior Patrol Leader or Scoutmaster.)



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Trustworthy

- A Scout is truthful with others online and is careful of the information shared.
- A Scout does the right thing when sharing and makes sure to have permission to shares the words or pictures of others.
- A Scout must follow the Youth Protection policies of the Boy Scouts of America with regard to the use of digital media and online resources.

Loyal

- A Scout uses his phone or device in a way that adds in a positive way to his troop or patrol.
- A loyal Scout is careful to post only appropriate photos or video clips and would never want to embarrass others with updates or communication.
- A loyal Scout would not use a phone or device to exclude other Scouts from conversation or discussion, for example with secret messages.

Helpful

- A Scout could use applications that can add to the outdoor experienced, such as a star-map, first aid information, or GPS coordinates.
- A Scout should alert others to scams, cheats, and suspicious sites and point other Scouts to reliable sources of information. Encourage others to report inappropriate online behavior.
- A Scout may use a phone or device to take appropriate photos or video of events for the troop or personal memories.

Friendly

- A Scout could use his phone or device to assist someone with information or access to communication.
- A Scout could use his phone or device to invite others to join Scouting or to remind fellow Scouts of important events and activities.



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Courteous

- Ringtones and alert messages shall be muted – beeps, rings, and recorded music take away from the outdoor and Scout experience.
- A device should not be a distraction. Scouts should pay attention to the program and fellow Scouts and Scouters. In a program, troop, or patrol situation, a Scout should avoid checking his phone or device for incoming messages, email, texts, or calls, unless messages related to the program are expected. Consider using airplane mode and wait to check for messages during designated times.
- A courteous Scout does not interrupt a conversation or program with others to stop and check for inbound messages of any type. The courteous Scout focuses his attention on his personal interactions, such as conversations in which he is engaged.
- A phone or device should not be used to insulate a Scout from the outdoors or others. For example, a Scout should not use headphones or similar devices during a Scouting activity. During a Scouting event a phone should not be used for entertainment such as playing solo electronic games, idle web surfing, shopping, etc.
- A phone or device should not be used to play music or videos – for himself or others – at any outdoor experience or troop/patrol meeting. Phone or device music at a campsite, campout, or campfire will take away from the outdoor experience for others.

Kind

- Not everyone can afford a smartphone. A Scout needs to be sensitive to others and avoid using his phone in a way that looks like boasting and makes other Scouts disappointed they cannot afford such a device. This is no different from other types of gear.
- A Scout treats people with respect while on social networks, playing games, talking, texting, or in other digital or online activities.

Obedient

- When using digital devices, a Scout follows the rules and example set by parents, guardians, teaches, this policy, and Scout leaders.
- A Scout abides by the rules on websites, services, devices, and games.
- A Scout is aware that different settings, events, or locations will have different rules for the use of electronics.



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Cheerful

- A scout uses games, messaging tools, and social forums to build relationships with others while having fun.

Thrifty

- A Scout recognizes that his phone or device may run out of power and learns to take measures to conserve power in his device, such as turning it off when not in use or by switching to airplane mode to conserve battery life.
- A Scout should not become reliant on his device. For example, a Scout should be ready with his map and compass rather than rely in a smartphone GPS.
- A Scout is a smart consumer. He knows his voice, text, and data plans and uses them wisely, careful not to run up charges on apps and sites.

Brave

- The Scout should not normally be calling home or sending text messages/email back and forth with home. If the Scout thinks there is an urgent need to contact home, he will consult with an adult leader first.
- Parents need to understand and agree that they are not normally to send messages or call their Scout while he is at an event with the troop or patrol. Communication from home should be routed through an adult leader.
- Stand up for what is right. Do not participate in mocking or bullying others, even if others are participating. Report suspected abuse to a trusted adult, such as a parent or leader.

Clean

- A Scout uses clean language and only discusses appropriate topics when using digital devices to communicate with others.
- A Scout needs to take responsibility and take care of his device against damage from dirt, water, or other hazards. He may need to keep it properly packed and protected against damage.

Reverent

- A Scout respects the feelings of others and never uses digital devices to spread irreverent ideas.

