

# Troop Cell Phone Policy

Cell phone use can be a major cause of homesickness, even on weekend camping trips. Improper use can cause unnecessary worry for others not on the trip. The Troop does recognize that cell phone availability is part of the safety program on trips and events. The term "cell phone" refers to any type of electronic communication device that allows contact with others. (Electronics in general are not on trips.)

One of the main principles of attending any Scout camping trip is to give the boys a chance to experience life in the outdoors ... usually without such luxuries as flushable toilets, air conditioning, and electronics. Scout sponsored activities are designed to foster Scouting's goals of character, citizenship, fitness, and fun utilizing the Patrol Method. The Patrol Method emphasizes the skills of team building, boy leadership, and face to face communication to help make the Patrol a success. Troop leadership has noted that Scouts are increasingly using phones or texting during meetings and outings to friends and contacts outside the structure of the troop. This situation is not only disrespectful to whoever is giving a presentation or otherwise conducting a meeting, but is very distracting to the others in attendance, and focuses the attention of the Scout away from the issue at hand.

Unless the Troop is in a camp prohibiting the Scout use of cell phones (most camps), the following rules apply for cell phone possession and use. Parents that feel they must be in touch with their sons on trips are encouraged to camp with the Troop.

Adults using carrying cell phone and using cell phones should abide by the same guidelines with Scouts.

Scouts Star rank and higher may carry & use personal cell phones on trips with the approval of the Scoutmaster and adhering to the following rules. This is to be viewed as a privilege and responsibility of more-mature Scouts.

1. Electronic games are not to be played on the phone at any time
2. The phone should be secured in a pack and stored out of site, not carried
3. Calls should be made out of sight of other Scouts and not in meetings
4. The phone may NOT be loaned to another Scout without the permission of the Scoutmaster
5. Scouts not willing to have their phones collected may elect to leave them at home

Any Scout not following this policy may have his cell phone confiscated for the duration of the event by any adult. The Troop is not responsible for cell phones that may be lost, damaged, or stolen.

Any Adult confiscating a cell phone should report the occurrence to the Scoutmaster.

Repeated violation or instigation of an unfortunate incident may terminate the privilege for the Scout to carry and use a cell phone.

The act of bringing a cell phone on any Scouting activity means that the owner agrees to these terms.