**ANNUAL REAFFIRMATION OF POLICIES**

**Revision 7 March 2019**

Due to the unique mission of Troop 7 and its Charter (Westminster Christian Academy) and all the recent changes in world outside our Troop, BSA policy, the significant increase in the size and difference in age and maturity of the boys, the Troop Committee has decided it may be helpful to annually reaffirm the Scouter Code of Conduct as it applies specifically to our Troop.

Below you will find in **UPPER CASE BOLD** the Scouter Code of Conduct as provided by the Boy Scouts of America. Under each section in *italics* are examples and amplifications that apply specifically to Troop 7.

**1. I HAVE OR WILL COMPLETE MY REGISTRATION WITH THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, ANSWERING ALL QUESTIONS TRUTHFULLY**

**AND HONESTLY.**

*Since the registration is filled out when you first join and re-charter is conducted annually. Please let the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chair know if any changes.*

**2. I WILL DO MY BEST TO LIVE UP TO THE SCOUT OATH AND SCOUT LAW, OBEY ALL LAWS, AND HOLD OTHERS IN SCOUTING ACCOUNTABLE TO THOSE STANDARDS. I WILL EXERCISE SOUND JUDGMENT AND DEMONSTRATE GOOD LEADERSHIP AND USE THE SCOUTING PROGRAM FOR ITS INTENDED PURPOSE CONSISTENT WITH THE MISSION OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA.**

*The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.*

**3. I WILL MAKE THE PROTECTION OF YOUTH A PERSONAL PRIORITY. I WILL COMPLETE AND REMAIN CURRENT WITH YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.**

*The BSA requires you to go online and complete training every 2 years.*

**4. WHEN TRANSPORTING SCOUTS I WILL OBEY ALL LAWS,**

*both State of Georgia and Federal laws apply*

**COMPLY WITH YOUTH PROTECTION GUIDELINES,**

***Two-deep leadership on all outings required.***

*A minimum of three registered adult leaders (preferably 4) is required for all trips and outings.*

***Patrol Activities***

*There are instances, such as patrol activities, when the presence of adult leaders is not required and adult leadership may be limited to patrol leadership training and guidance. With proper training, guidance, and approval by troop leaders, the patrol can conduct day hikes and service projects.*

***One-on-one contact between adults and youth members is prohibited.***

*In situations requiring a personal conference, such as a Scoutmaster conference, the meeting is to be conducted with the knowledge and in view of other adults and/or youth.*

***Two-deep leadership and no one-on-one contact between adults and youth members includes digital communication.***

*Leaders may not have one-on-one private online communications or engage one-on-one in other digital activities (games, social media, etc.) with youth members. Leaders should copy a parent and another leader in digital and online communication, ensuring no one-on-one contact exists in text, social media, or other forms of online or digital communication.*

***Age-appropriate and separate accommodations for adults and Scouts are required.***

***Tenting***

*No adult may share a tent with the opposite sex unless he or she is that adult’s spouse.*

*No youth may share a tent with an adult or a person of the opposite sex other than a family member or guardian. Assigning youth members under the age of sixteen or more than two years apart in age to sleep in the same tent should be avoided unless the youth are relatives.*

***Shower Facilities***

*Whenever possible, separate shower and latrine facilities should be provided for male/female adults and male/female youth. If separate facilities are not available, separate shower times should be scheduled and posted.*

***The buddy system should be used at all times.***

*The buddy system is a safety measure for all Scouting activities. Buddies should know and be comfortable with each other. Self-selection with no more than two years age or significant differences in maturity should be strongly encouraged. When necessary, a buddy team may consist of three Scouts. No youth should be forced into or made to feel uncomfortable by a buddy assignment.*

***Privacy of youth is respected****.*

*Adult leaders and youth must respect each other’s privacy, especially in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers at camp. Adults may enter youth changing or showering areas only to the extent that health and safety requires. Adults must protect their own privacy in similar situations.*

***Inappropriate use of smart phones, cameras, imaging, or digital devices is prohibited.***

*Although most Scouts and leaders use cameras and other imaging devices responsibly, it is easy to unintentionally or inadvertently invade the privacy of other individuals with such devices. The use of any device capable of recording or transmitting visual images in or near shower houses, restrooms, or other areas where privacy is expected is inappropriate.*

***No secret organizations.***

*The BSA does not recognize any secret organizations as part of its program. All aspects of the Scouting program are open to observation by parents and leaders.*

***Youth leadership is monitored by adult leaders****.*

*Adult leaders must monitor and guide the leadership techniques used by youth leaders and ensure BSA policies are followed.*

***Discipline must be constructive****.*

*Discipline used in Scouting must be constructive and reflect Scouting’s values. Corporal punishment is never permitted. Disciplinary activities involving isolation, humiliation, or ridicule are prohibited. Examples of positive discipline include verbal praise and high fives.*

***Appropriate attire is required for all activities****.*

*Proper clothing for activities is required.*

***No hazing****.*

*Hazing and initiations are prohibited and may not be included as part of any Scouting activity.*

***No bullying****.*

*Verbal, physical, and cyberbullying are prohibited in Scouting.*

***Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse****All persons involved in Scouting must report to local authorities any good-faith suspicion or belief that any child is or has been physically or sexually abused, physically or emotionally neglected, exposed to any form of violence or threat, exposed to any form of sexual exploitation including the possession, manufacture, or distribution of child pornography, online solicitation, enticement, or showing of obscene material. This duty cannot be delegated to any other person.  
Immediately notify the Scout executive of this report, or of any violation of BSA’s Youth Protection policies, so he or she may take appropriate action for the safety of our Scouts, make appropriate notifications, and follow up with investigating agencies.*

#### *Specifically in the State of Georgia: Any person who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused will report. (Black’s Law definition of reasonable cause: "...(the) state of facts as would lead (a) man of ordinary care and prudence or good judgment to believe and entertain a strong and honest suspicion.*

***All adult leaders and youth members have responsibility.***

*Everyone is responsible for acting in accordance with the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Physical violence, sexual activity, emotional abuse, spiritual abuse, unauthorized weapons, hazing, discrimination, harassment, initiation rites, bullying, cyberbullying, theft, verbal insults, drugs, alcohol, and pornography have no place in the Scouting program and may result in revocation of membership.*

*Troop 7 has adopted a “two strike” position on matters of conduct.*

***Units are responsible to enforce Youth Protection policies.***

*Adult leaders in Scouting units are responsible for monitoring the behavior of youth members and other leaders and interceding when necessary. If youth members misbehave, their parents should be informed and asked for assistance.*

***Incidents requiring an immediate report to the Scout executive.***

*The following must be reported to the council Scout executive for action immediately:*

* *Any threat or use of a weapon*
* *Any negative behavior associated with race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or disability*
* *Any reports to authorities where the BSA’s Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse policy or your state’s mandatory reporting of child abuse laws apply*
* *Any abuse of a child that meets state reporting mandates for bullying or harassment*
* *Any mention or threats of suicide*

**AND FOLLOW SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES.**

* ***I will not****text or talk on my phone while I am driving. Texting and talking take my eyes off the road, hands off the steering wheel, and my mind off what I am doing.*
* ***I will****put my phone in my backpack or in the glove box before I get behind the wheel. I will only check it when I have safely parked the vehicle.*
* ***I will not****become distracted by things going on inside and outside the vehicle. I will concentrate on my driving and my travel plans.*
* ***I will not****drive when I feel fatigued. I realize that when I am fatigued, I process information more slowly and less accurately and this impairs my ability to react in time to avoid accidents.*
* ***I will****arrange my schedule so that several days before a Scout "driving trip," I will get a good night's sleep every night to avoid the cumulative effect of not getting enough sleep.*
* ***I will****make trip preparations far enough in advance so that last-minute preparations don't interfere with my rest.*
* ***I will****make travel plans and drive only during the part of the day when I know I will be alert.*
* ***I will****be smart about engaging in physical activities during Scouting outings and will make sure that I will be ready to drive alertly.*

**5. I WILL RESPECT AND ABIDE BY THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, BSA POLICIES, AND BSA-PROVIDED TRAINING.**

**6. I WILL NOT DISCUSS OR ENGAGE IN ANY FORM OF SEXUAL CONDUCT WHILE ENGAGED IN SCOUTING ACTIVITIES. I WILL REFER SCOUTS WITH QUESTIONS REGARDING THESE TOPICS TO TALK TO THEIR PARENTS OR SPIRITUAL ADVISOR.**

*This policy applies to any form or type of communications or activities between members regardless of where such communications or activities occur.*

**7. I CONFIRM THAT I HAVE FULLY DISCLOSED AND WILL DISCLOSE IN THE FUTURE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

**A. ANY CRIMINAL SUSPICION, CHARGES OR CONVICTIONS OF A CRIME OR OFFENSE INVOLVING ABUSE, VIOLENCE, SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, OR ANY MISCONDUCT INVOLVING MINORS OR JUVENILES**

**B. ANY INVESTIGATION OR COURT ORDER INVOLVING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, CHILD ABUSE, OR SIMILAR MATTER**

**C. ANY CRIMINAL CHARGES OR CONVICTIONS FOR OFFENSES INVOLVING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED, FIREARMS OR DANGEROUS WEAPONS.**

**8. I WILL NOT POSSESS, DISTRIBUTE, TRANSPORT, CONSUME, OR USE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS PROHIBITED BY LAW OR IN VIOLATION OF ANY SCOUTING RULES, REGULATIONS AND POLICIES:**

**A. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, INCLUDING MARIJUANA.**

**B. CONCEALED OR UNCONCEALED FIREARMS, FIREWORKS, OR EXPLOSIVES.**

**C. PORNOGRAPHY OR MATERIALS CONTAINING WORDS OR IMAGES INCONSISTENT WITH SCOUTING VALUES.**

**9. IF I AM TAKING PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS WITH THE POTENTIAL OF IMPAIRING MY FUNCTIONING OR JUDGMENT, I WILL NOT ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES WHICH WOULD PUT SCOUTS AT RISK, INCLUDING DRIVING OR OPERATING EQUIPMENT.**

**10. I WILL TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT OR REPORT ANY VIOLATION OF THIS CODE OF CONDUCT BY OTHERS IN CONNECTION WITH**

**SCOUTING ACTIVITIES.**