

**ST. LUKE'S BSA TROOP 405**  
**Policy on Unacceptable Scout Behavior**

March 26, 2002  
Revised Jan. 2, 2003

**1. Rationale for this policy:**

A member of the Boy Scouts of America is expected to be a good citizen, a role model for others to look up to and admire, and is expected to live his life according to the Boy Scout Oath and the 12 Points of the Boy Scout Law. Occasionally, a Boy Scout may not live up to this challenge. For most Scouts, a simple reminder from a leader that they were not living up to the Oath or Law is all that is required. Infrequently, there may be a boy who is a repeat offender, or is resistant to the usual informal suggestions to correct his behavior. For these circumstances, this policy was created. The goal is to allow the boy room to grow and improve himself, without infringing on the integrity of the troop, or the rights of the other boys in the troop. Every effort will be made to keep the boy in Scouting through positive growth, so long as he is sincerely trying to improve. If he has no desire to improve, and is disruptive to the cohesive functioning of the troop, he may be asked to leave.

**2. What constitutes unacceptable behavior from a Boy Scout?**

A Boy Scout should not lie, cheat, or steal, nor tolerate anyone who does so. He should respect personal property. He should not be engaged in graffiti. He should keep his thoughts, actions, and words clean, especially in the presence of younger scouts and adults. Specifically, he should not be engaged in public profanity or lewdness. He should treat leaders and parents with dignity and respect. He should not consciously subject others to belittlement, ridicule, or humiliation. He should not physically harm another scout. He should not use alcohol or illicit drugs. He should obey the laws of his country, state, city, and county.

**3. Steps for corrective action:**

**A. First offense:** If a Scout is observed by a registered leader of Troop 405 to be behaving in an unacceptable manner, the leader has the obligation to gently take the boy aside as soon as possible after the infraction, and explain to the boy what the leader observed, why it is unacceptable, and that we don't expect that kind of behavior from him or any other Boy Scout. If a *parent* witnesses what they believe to be unacceptable behavior, the parent should tell the Scoutmaster or registered leader in charge, and that leader will deal with the Scout as above. At all times, the Scout's dignity is to be preserved, and Youth Protection guidelines will be followed. The parent will be notified within 1 week of the occurrence, and the Scoutmaster will note the infraction in the Troopmaster program.

**B. Second offense:** If a Scout does not seem to respond to gentle verbal correction, and continues with unacceptable behavior, or shows disrespect for authority, then the parent will be called to immediately come and pick up the Scout from the Scouting activity. A written documentation of the incident will be made. The Scout and his parent will be invited to a

Scoutmaster conference, with both the Scoutmaster and an Assistant Scoutmaster in attendance. A written copy of the Policy on Unacceptable Scout Behavior will be given to the Scout and parent, and a copy of the documented alleged misbehavior will also be given. The Scout will be asked to sign the below affirmation statement in the presence of his parent, and agree to try to avoid further infractions.

**Affirmation statement:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that I was caught in behavior unbecoming of a Boy Scout. I will do my best to avoid this behavior in the future.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Scoutmaster: \_\_\_\_\_

Asst. Scoutmaster: \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Third offense:** If a Scout is caught in un-Scout like conduct a 3<sup>rd</sup> time, the scout's parent will be called, and the Scout will be picked up from the Scouting activity. His parent will again be asked to come to a Scoutmaster conference, again with both the Scoutmaster and an assistant Scoutmaster. A written documentation of all the infractions will be given. The scout will be asked to sign the statement of impending sanction below, in the presence of his parent. In addition, the incident will be reported to the Troop Committee at their next meeting.

**Statement of impending sanction:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that I have been caught repeatedly in the act of unacceptable Scout behaviors. This is causing disruption to the troop, and brings disrespect to all Boy Scouts. I understand that from this point on I will be closely watched, and if I engage in *any* further unacceptable Scout behaviors, I will be suspended from participation in all troop activities for a period of 2 months. If I hold a leadership position, I will lose it for the duration of the suspension. After the suspension, I may re-join the troop as a full member, but only if I promise to live all aspects of my life according to the Scout Oath and Law, and in accordance with the Troop Policy on Unacceptable Scout Behavior.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Scoutmaster: \_\_\_\_\_

Asst. Scoutmaster: \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Fourth offense:** If a Scout is caught in violation of the Policy on Unacceptable Scout Behavior for a 4<sup>th</sup> time, he will be placed on immediate suspension from the troop. He and his parents will be notified of the troop's action by the Scoutmaster, and the scout will be sent home with his parent. After the suspension, if the Scout wishes to be re-instated, he will be asked to sign one final affirmation, below:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that I am being given one final chance to be in Boy Scouts and act like a Boy Scout. I realize that if I misbehave again, I risk being permanently dropped from the troop, in accordance with the Policy of Unacceptable Scout Behavior.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Scoutmaster: \_\_\_\_\_

Asst. Scoutmaster: \_\_\_\_\_

**E. Fifth Offense:** If a Scout is caught in violation of the Policy of Unacceptable Scout Behavior for a 5<sup>th</sup> time, the scout will immediately be sent home with his parent. The Scoutmaster will ask the Troop Committee Chairman to hold a special, called meeting of the Troop Committee, to which the involved Scout and his parent will be invited. All documents and signed statements will be present. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster will present the evidence for repeated infractions, and the Scout and his parent will have the opportunity to rebut. Following this, the Scout and his parent will be asked to step outside, and the Troop Committee will vote on whether or not to keep this boy in Troop 405. If 3/4 of the voting members in attendance vote to expel the scout, it shall be done. The boy and his parents will be immediately notified of the decision of the Committee, and it shall be final, with no further recourse. Complete records of the proceedings will be kept in the troop archives for at least 5 years. If instead, the Committee votes to keep this Scout in the troop, the exact conditions and limitations of that extension will be completely and explicitly spelled out in a document to be signed by the Troop Committee Chair, the Scoutmaster, the parent, and the Scout.