

TROOP 515 CELL PHONE POLICY FOR SCOUTS

BSA - Has relaxed their stance on the usage of cell Phones by Scouts, realizing that they are not just used as phones anymore. Their reasoning is that if we can teach a Scout to use a pocket knife, hatchet and fire safely, we can teach and trust them to use a cell phone wisely. Still we need to establish some rules for their proper use and the most important considerations are how and when they should be used. With this in mind, the following will apply not only at Summer Camp, but on weekend campouts, activities and at meetings as well.

1. No Scout should be walking and talking or texting on a cell phone around the camp or event unless there is a good reason for its use. Cell phones should remain concealed unless they are absolutely required for use.
2. No Scout should be texting or talking to friends who are not on the campout or activity.
3. Posting pictures to Social Media websites must be done discretely. Cell phones should not be taken out in bathroom or shower facilities and no questionable or lewd pictures should ever be taken or posted at any time. Understand that even sharing these types of posts may be illegal and subject to severe consequences.
4. Cell phones should not be lent to other Scouts and especially not to younger Scouts. If a younger Scout asks to borrow a cell phone, direct them to an adult. If it is an emergency or important call, the adult will handle it.
5. Do not hang around bathrooms or other facilities to charge cell phones. People will get the wrong impression and the privilege may be revoked completely if it gets out of hand.
6. If a Scout has to be warned about the misuse of a cell phone, it may lead to having the phone taken till the trip is complete, or contacting a parent may be necessary.
7. Selfies, while currently very popular, should not be taken on camping trips or outings and if they are, it should also be done discretely and with the utmost care for safety.
8. Exercise common sense when using a cell phone, especially in emergencies. If someone needs help, no one should be taking pictures of them. Calling for help is certainly allowed.
9. Utilize common sense when taking pictures of wildlife or nature. Maintain a safe distance at all times. A great picture is not worth risking injury or death to obtain.
10. Under no circumstances should you share vital information, pictures or personal information with anyone on your cell phone who you do not know. Even if you do know the person, use your head before posting or sharing information about yourself or the Troop.
11. The Scout is responsible for the Cell Phone and it's use. The Troop is not responsible for lost, damaged, stolen or destroyed Cell Phones or other electronic devices or equipment, nor will the Troop be responsible for supplying a means of charging any devices, or the replacement of any equipment.
12. Scouts should always copy their Parent or another Scout when texting or E-mailing an Adult Leader or older Scouts in the Troop. Older Scouts and Adult leaders should also do the same when contacting Scouts.