



**Boy Scouts of America  
Troop 185 Wellesley, MA**

**Code of Conduct, Statement of Understanding, and Anti-Bullying Policy - 2022/23**

In order to provide a positive, safe, and enriching environment for all members of BSA Troop 185, the following code of conduct, statement of understanding, and anti-bullying policies must be read, understood, and signed by all Scouts and their parents. Full adherence to these policies is a requirement for participation in any Troop 185 activity.

**Parents and scouts should review these policies together and discuss any questions before signing the last page.**

**Scout's Code of Conduct**

- 1. I understand that the Troop's leaders (both adult and youth leaders) may provide instructions or directions intended to protect the safety of each member of the Troop. I will follow their guidance and direction at all times. If I think a request is not appropriate I will speak to the Scoutmaster or another adult Troop Leader and inform my parent or guardian.**
2. I will not leave the location of the Troop meeting or event without permission of the Scoutmaster and until my parent/guardian picks me up.
3. The Scout Oath and Scout Law will be my guide in all interactions with Troop members and others.
4. I will set a good example by keeping myself appropriately dressed, neat, tucked in and clean at all times. I will wear the Official Scout Uniform (Class A): Scout Shirt, with proper insignia and neckerchief at Troop meetings, Courts of Honor and at other times as instructed by the Troop Leaders. While traveling to Troop activities, trips and other designated events I will wear my Troop T-shirt (Class B).
5. I will work cooperatively as a member of my Troop and Patrol, sharing in all work, communicating my ideas, listening to the ideas of others and supporting Troop leaders.
6. I promise to respect the Troop leaders during the meetings and activities. Remaining in control, listening to others, and setting a good example for my fellow Scouts. I will try to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem at all times. I will be quiet and respectful and pay attention during the times of meetings when I am supposed to be listening.
7. I promise to assist the Troop leaders during instructional sessions, assisting if I already know the skill and not being disruptive or disrespectful.
- 8. I will not use my cell phone/mobile device in a manner disrespectful or obstructive to the conduct of meetings, activities or trips. If a youth or adult leader requests that I put away my device, I will comply without objection. I understand that electronic devices may not be allowed during certain Troop activities. If I fail to adhere to these policies, the Troop leader reserves the right to confiscate my device and give it to the Scoutmaster until the end of the meeting or activity.**

9. I will be responsible for caring for Troop equipment. I assume full responsibility for my personal gear and will keep it labeled, neat and clean. I understand that any loss, breakage or theft of my personal items is not the responsibility of the Troop. I will demonstrate respect for others' property and will be personally responsible for any loss, breakage, damage or vandalism of Troop, Church or personal property of others as a result of my actions.
10. I will actively support Scouting's Low-Impact/Leave No Trace camping policies. I will do my best to protect and maintain the natural environment wherever I go.
11. I understand and promise not to be involved in any way in the following prohibitions: the purchase, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, vaping or tobacco products; gambling in any form for money or possessions; possession or detonation of any type of fireworks; fighting; bringing disruptive/inappropriate materials to any meeting, activity or trip.
12. I will respect the property of St. John's/St. Paul's, our Chartered Organization, and will not touch anything without permission, nor will I enter rooms or areas not approved by the Troop leaders.
13. I understand that Scouting is a safe haven. I will not tolerate bullying, hazing of any kind, put-downs of others, aggressive or disrespectful behavior.
14. I will try to communicate with and show acceptance of all members of my Troop and the Troop leaders. I will work to build a safe environment of learning and enjoyment for everyone.
- 15. I will not communicate electronically with any adults (other than my parents) without copying my parent/guardian or another member of the adult leadership of the Troop.**
16. If I observe any other scout violating any of the Troop rules I will report my observations to an adult leader immediately.
17. I understand that serious and/or repeated behavioral issues or failure to follow safety procedures or instructions may result in expulsion from Troop activities or result in serious disciplinary action and loss of Scouting privileges.

### **Parent's Statement of Understanding**

18. I will not transport other Scouts (besides my own) to/from a Troop event without the permission of the Scout's parents or the Scoutmaster.
19. **Photo Release:** I hereby give permission to BSA Troop 185, its committee, and adult Troop leaders to use images/photographs/videos (whether a hard copy or electronic files) of my scout and family members. Items may be published on the website, Facebook page, Instagram, Troop e-mails, in the newspaper or in other publications and/or promotional material of BSA Troop 185. BSA Troop 185 will not list the Scout's full name in any publications intended for public distribution or for distribution to persons other than Scouts and their families and invited guests. I also understand that this permission can be revoked with a written note to the Troop 185 Committee.
20. I will read Troop newsletters and emails in order to keep abreast of activities.
21. I will turn in required forms, activity permission slips, and other paperwork on time. I recognize that missed deadlines may result in exclusion of a Scout from an activity and requests for exceptions may create additional work for other adult volunteers.

22. I understand BSA Scouting is an Experiential Learning Program. Scouts will learn by doing their own work, discovering solutions and advocating for themselves. **I will allow the Scouts to advocate for themselves in Scouting including items such as advancement.** We use the metaphor “*A Scout Packs Their Own Pack.*”
23. I will make a reasonable effort to assist with Troop activities when called upon, as my schedule allows. I will do my best to share the work of the Troop with other parents and adult volunteers.
24. I will abide by all BSA and St. John’s/St. Paul’s Youth Protection Policies, and will promptly raise any concerning behaviors/situations that I observe.

## **Anti-Bullying Policy**

A safe scouting environment is one in which every Scout develops emotionally, intellectually, and physically in a supportive atmosphere free of intimidation and abuse. Bullying of any type has no place in a Scouting setting. Troop 185 will endeavor to maintain an environment free of bullying. The Troop 185 Committee and the leadership will not tolerate bullying.

**Definition:** "Bullying" is the repeated use by one or more individuals of a written, verbal or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a victim that:

- Causes physical or emotional harm to the victim or damage to the victim's property
- Places the victim in reasonable fear of harm to victim or of damage to the victim's property
- Creates a hostile environment for the victim at a Scout function
- Infringes on the rights of the victim at a Scout function
- Causes the victim to feel like they cannot participate in a Scout activity

Our Policy:

- **Part 1:** Any incident of bullying shall be reported immediately to the Troop leader in charge at the event. The Troop leader and both sets of parents will confer to come to an immediate resolution.
  - **Resolution A:** Bullying Scout apologizes and victim accepts apology (preferred outcome). If bullying persists, the offending Scout will need to leave the event.
  - **Resolution B:** If accord cannot be made between the two Scouts, the bullying Scout will need to leave the event immediately.
- **Part 2:** A second incidence of bullying by the same Scout at a subsequent event, shall result in the expulsion of that Scout from the event. A written warning will be issued by the Troop leader.
- **Part 3:** A third incidence of bullying by the same Scout will result in expulsion from the Troop.
- **Part 4:** Any incident of physical bullying shall result in the immediate expulsion of the offender from the event.
- **Part 5:** The second incident of physical bullying results in immediate expulsion of the offender from the Troop.



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**Signature Page**

I certify that I have read and understand the Scout's Code of Conduct (pages 1 and 2), Parent's Statement of Understanding (page 2 and 3) and Anti-Bullying Policy (page 3) and agree to follow and abide by all points listed in each section. I have raised any questions/concerns with the leadership of the Troop and I am satisfied with the responses provided.

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Name of Scout

Signature of Scout

Date

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Name of Parent

Signature of Parent

Date