

Boy Scouts of America

Troop 614
Gainesville, FL



Camping rules
HandBook

Troop 614 Camping rules handbook

Welcome Scouts, and Parents!

Troop 614 would like to welcome you and invite you to consider taking part in our camping activities. Our Scouting program places much of its focus on adventuresome and educational experiences in the outdoors. We encourage all parents to take part in these outings as this allows them to see and experience first-hand the role camping plays in our scouts' development.

Our Troop follows certain rules for camping that are designed to provide opportunities for leadership development and teamwork and adult modeling opportunities to maximize our scouts' learning and development while ensuring the scouts' safety. These rules are a critical component of delivering the optimum scouting experience while camping.

Whether you are entering our troop from Cub Scouts, transferring from another Boy Scout Troop, or are new to Scouting, we want your son to have the greatest experience possible and invite you to become part of that experience through participation in our camping activities.

This handbook is divided into two sections that list expectations for scouts and adults, respectively. While these are divided in this manner for convenience, parents are highly encouraged to completely read both sections since they are expected to follow both sets of rules.

Note: As described above, the rules outlined in this handbook are followed for specific reasons that benefit our scouts. Some of these rules, particularly those for the adults, may seem strict or odd in the eyes of those who are not familiar with Boy Scout camping methods. Anyone who has questions or concerns about these rules are urged to discuss them with the Scoutmaster so that more complete explanations can be provided.

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Scout Expectations

In Troop 614, we expect the boys on a campout to follow certain rules of conduct that help provide for their development and safety. These rules incorporate those standard rules and procedures set forth by the Boy Scouts of America.

The expectations for the boys on a campout are as follows:

Signing up

- All camp attendees need to sign up for an upcoming campout by submitting a completed permission slip and/or payment to the troop Treasurer by the first troop meeting following the prior campout.

Travel

- All campers are expected to arrive on time at the campout departure point (usually YMCA) so the boys can organize and pack the troop trailer and be on the road on time. Departure and arrival information is always provided via an activity permission slip that is distributed for every event, and posted to the troop website (www.troop614gville.com).
- The Senior Patrol Leader is responsible for keeping a roster and headcount of all scouts while traveling to and from camp.
- Generally, stops made during travel to and from camp are for fueling vehicles and taking bathroom breaks. Scouts are usually discouraged or told that they are not to purchase food or other items while present at gas stations or convenience stores. Exceptions to this may be made depending on the length of the trip but this decision is to be made by the Senior Patrol Leader.
- Scouts are expected to have eaten before leaving on a trip or have food available during travel, unless other arrangements have been made prior to the trip.

Dress code

- Field uniforms (Class A's) are to be worn during travel to and from camp.
- Activity uniforms (Class B's) are to be worn for activities during camp.
- While the troop encourages all clothing to be scout issue, clothing for inclement weather such as jackets, gloves, sweat pants and rain gear do not have to be scout issue. Also, there are some activities where scout-issue clothing is not necessary, such as swimming.

Patrol Method

- Troop 614 is a boy-led troop and therefore the scouts undertake many camp activities separate from the adults under their own leadership. Adults are present for guidance when needed and ensuring safety, but for the most part the boys are in charge of running the campout for the troop. Group activities such as hiking are usually done together.

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- All campers camp by patrol. These patrols are for the purpose of helping the scouts develop the ability to work in a group or team setting.
- Boys usually share tents with 3 boys in each tent.
- Each patrol is organized by the following chain of command and scouts are expected to follow this chain when the need arises:
 - Each patrol has a Patrol Leader who is responsible for final decisions on patrol matters.
 - Each patrol has a Patrol Quartermaster who is responsible for the supplies or equipment for the patrol. Patrol Quartermasters are expected to report to and work with the Troop Quartermaster and other Patrol Quartermasters when the need arises to obtain additional or missing supplies or equipment for the patrol.
 - Each patrol has a distinct location in camp and as well as equipment that has been assigned to the patrols respectively.
- Duty rosters are the responsibility of the Patrol Leader and are to be posted for each patrol for the purpose of assigning specific tasks to patrol members.
- All scouts are expected to follow the 12 points of the Scout Law when interacting with others in their patrol and those in the troop.
- Scouts are not allowed in the Adult Patrol camping area unless they have received permission from one of the adult leaders.

Gear

- The troop provides the following camping equipment: tents, cooking utensils and cookware, cleaning supplies, tables, tools, charcoal/firewood/propane gas as needed, and stoves/grills.
- All campers are expected to utilize the troop's equipment.
- Examples of gear that are not provided by the troop include: personal clothing, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, mess kit and utensils, cup, toiletries, towels, compass, knife (Tot'n Chit award required), and flashlight. A personal packing list for required gear is provided prior to every campout.
- Electronics are prohibited during camp. They may be used during travel to and from camp, but must remain in vehicles during camp. Electronics found during camp will be confiscated and returned upon departure from camp. The only exception to this rule is cameras. Cell phones are not considered cameras.
- Camping chairs for boys are limited to tripod seats that fit in their camping bag or backpack. Boys are not allowed to bring full-size camping chairs due to limited space in the trailer for carting equipment, preventing regular occurrences of damaged personal equipment and to maintain equity across all scouts.

Camp

- Provided the terrain allows for it, all patrols setup their tents in the same manner e.g. rows, circle, etc.
- The Senior Patrol Leader decides times for getting up and lights out. All scouts are required to be in their tents by lights out.
- Patrol equipment is to be kept orderly at all times.
- Patrol camping areas are to be kept clean at all times.

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- A centralized flag pole, axe yard and camp gateway are typically set up by the boys.
- Each distinct area of camp may be roped off to distinguish it from other areas.

Cooking

- Each patrol plans its menus together during troop meetings.
- A Grubmaster is selected for each campout at a previous troop meeting. Grubmasters are responsible for purchasing all food required for the campout and ensuring that the receipt for the food is turned in to the Treasurer for reimbursement.
- Meals are expected to be healthy, well-rounded and kept within the food budget allotted for each campout.
- Meals are selected according to the activities of the campout (eg. if a hike is planned lunches may need to be back-packable).
- Meals are cooked using patrol equipment.

Activity Participation

- Scouts are expected to participate in campout planned activities unless they are not feeling well or if there is a personal reason that they are unable to participate.
- Activities are designed to help the scouts develop outdoor skills as well as meet requirements for merit badges and rank advancement.
- Campfires with songs, skits and stunts are normally planned and they provide an excellent opportunity for reflection and fun.
- Each patrol is expected to provide some entertainment at the campfire with songs, skits, or stories.

Breaking camp

- Each patrol is responsible for breaking down and packing its own equipment.
- Scouts are responsible for taking care of their own equipment. They may be asked to bring some equipment home for cleaning and return it at the next troop meeting.
- Scouts follow the principles of "Leave No Trace." Prior to leaving camp, scouts will "patrol" the campground to make sure all trash is picked up and the camp is left in condition that is as good as or better than they found it.
- An interfaith Sunday Service is usually held prior to leaving camp.

Safety and Discipline

- Scouts are expected to follow the safety rules set by the Boy Scouts of America as well as the rules set by the troop leadership. These rules include use of the buddy system at all times.
- Adults are present at each activity and throughout the camping trip to help ensure a safe camping experience.
- All medications that scouts bring to camp are given to the Scoutmaster, who then gives them to each scout as prescribed.

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- All scouts are expected to follow the 12 points of the Scout Law when interacting with others in their patrol and those in the troop.
- Older and/or higher ranking scouts who have gained years of experience above newer, less-experienced scouts are expected to actively set a good example, monitor for safety and provide redirection and coaching as appropriate when necessary.

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Adult Expectations

In Troop 614, we expect the adults on a campout to follow certain rules that promote uniformity and teamwork for the troop as a whole, and to ensure the modeling of appropriate behaviors that we want our scouts to follow.

Adults are expected to follow the same expectations that scouts follow. The following provides clarification and additional information about methods we follow, and why.

Training and camp eligibility

- All adults participating in or attending campouts (or any other scouting activity) are required to meet the Youth Protection Training requirements.
- The Boy Scouts of America provides criteria that must be followed in terms of who is allowed to attend camping activities with scouts. All non-Troop 614 persons wishing to attend a campout must discuss their interest with the Scoutmaster prior to the campout in order to ensure that all requirements have been met.

Equipment and Supplies

- Troop 614 provides all equipment that adults and scouts need for camping, except for personal items such as clothing, toiletries, etc.
- Adults are expected to use troop equipment for camping, including tents, cooking equipment, etc. Troop 614 follows a practice of “what is good for the boys is good for the adults.” Adults demonstrate leadership by using the same equipment that the boys are expected to use.
- While adults have always tented together, Troop 614 respects the fact that some adults may not be comfortable sharing a tent with another adult other than their own spouse. In this case, those adults are welcome to use a troop tent for themselves. Personal tents are not allowed unless there are not enough tents to accommodate all campers, or if there is a medical reason that requires the use of a non-troop tent.
- Troop 614 strives to develop scout skills that enables its boys to “do more with less”, following the Thrifty point of the scout law. For this reason, scouts are expected to minimize what they bring to camp and limit it to only those items that they need to Be Prepared. To model this expectation, adults are also asked to refrain from bringing excessive equipment and supplies, except for those items needed for instruction of scouts. Any personal items that are brought should be kept in tents, vehicles and kept out of sight throughout the campout.
- Adults are encouraged to keep a cell phone with them at all times (ringer set on silent or vibrate) for emergency situations.

Safety, Discipline

- While the adults and boys are generally in separate camping areas, it is the adults' responsibility to ensure safety. When an adult sees something that might potentially be harmful to a scout, that adult should immediately decide if he/she

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should act through the Senior Patrol Leader to ensure prevention of harm, or if the situation is urgent enough that he/she should take care of it independently.

- All adults should use good judgment when deciding to discipline a scout. While the troop does not prevent adults from disciplining scouts, it is usually a good idea for that adult to discuss the situation with the Scoutmaster or more senior Assistant Scoutmasters to determine the best course of action. Sometimes a scout might have a particular background situation (family problem, personal issue, medical situation, etc) that needs to be taken into account before the appropriate action is decided upon. The best course of action is usually to communicate first, then act, as opposed to acting first and then communicating.

Other “methods”

- Adults are expected to interact with other adults and scouts in ways that they would want the scouts to emulate. Some examples of easily forgotten model behaviors include: providing individual constructive feedback in private, and performing tasks in a cheerful and helpful manner.
- Frequently, scouts might approach the Adult area to ask questions or to “borrow” items they might need. When this occurs they are to be asked what it is that they need and then referred back to their Patrol Leader or Senior Patrol Leader, assuming their request is non-safety/health-related. The reason for this is to encourage the proper use of the chain of command with their patrol and troop, and to encourage the scouts to become self-sufficient.
- If an adult needs to have “time away” from the troop, he or she is expected to notify the Scoutmaster first. This practice is followed out of simple common-courtesy and so that the adults know where everyone is in the event they are needed.
- Adults are expected to actively participate in activities during camp. Even though the boys lead their own activities, camp is not to be thought of as a vacation where adults can go and not participate in what is going on in the troop. On the other hand adults are encouraged to take the initiative to learn a scout-related skill and teach the scouts or other adults!
- When breaking camp, adults that have completed their personal and patrol packing are NOT to begin working on scouts’ tasks. Scouts need to complete their own tasks themselves with the members of their respective patrols.
- Adults do not have a curfew as do the scouts. This allows for additional fellowship time around the campfire after a long day of scouting.