

Troop 161 Participation Policy For Outdoor Activities

In order for Scouts to move forward in rank, and get the most out of our Scouting program, they must be active in Troop outdoor activities. We expect that a boy must attend no less than 50% of these outdoor activities (campouts). These campouts help develop the skills and teamwork that are necessary to have enjoyable and successful experiences. The Troop averages at least one outing per month. This gives plenty of opportunities for a boy to meet this requirement.

Full participation in Troop campouts means that the Scout attends the campout from “beginning to end.” Problems arise when a Scout wants to arrive late or leave early. This causes difficulties for everyone involved. The Scouts need to build skills, learn leadership, and work as a team. The full weekend experience is necessary to building skills for more challenging adventures. Without these basic skills, Scouts will not be prepared for the high adventure trips that our Troop offers. It is not fair to leave the setup or breakdown of a campsite to those Scouts who are there beginning to end. Also, the adult leaders are unfairly burdened with the responsibility of keeping track of which Scouts are coming or going. This can also present a problem if a campsite needs to be evacuated on short notice which has happened in the past.

When your son signs up for a campout, he is making a commitment to participate, so arrange his schedule so that he, and his fellow Scouts can enjoy the full Scouting experience. Choose the campouts that don't conflict with other activities. It is no different than a sports team. You would never show up late or leave the game early and expect to play. A coach or fellow team members would not find that acceptable.

Finally, we realize that there can occasionally be a special problem. It should be discussed with the Scoutmaster or person in charge of the outing ahead of time. Also realize that coming late or leaving early will usually result in that campout not counting toward the outdoor requirements outlined in the first paragraph.

We hope this clarifies to everyone what our Troop policy is on outdoor camping activities and requirements. We want every boy to get the most out of what we have to offer in a way that's fair and enjoyable to everyone.

Troop Committee