

Troop 653 Policy: Adult Participation in Scout Outings

Dated: 11/18/13

Introduction:

It's all about the boys...teaching them responsibility, skills, self confidence, setting an example, creating a foundation to make them successful in their teenage years and as adults. Parents getting involved in scouting events, Court of Honor, Committee Meetings, and troop leadership sends a message that scouting is important. The diversity, talent, and perspective that the adult leaders collectively provide, supports the adage that "It takes a village to raise a child". The Patrol Method provides a learning environment to teach planning, teamwork, and demonstrates why taking responsibility is important. Well meaning parent intervention on outings can disrupt the learning process. There are few better learning experiences for 13 year old Joey than when he gets to camp and realizes he forgot to bring the spaghetti sauce for his patrols dinner.

Adult Outing Policy:

1. All adults in contact with scouts are required to have completed Youth Protection Training (YPT). In addition, adults will practice two deep leadership when in potential contact with a single scout.
2. Parents/guardians are encouraged to send their scouts on camping trips without a parent. The goal is that over time the scout will gain skills and self confidence on outings and the scout should feel confident and enthusiastic w/o a parent present.
3. There are many Troop Committee positions. To participate in outings, you do not have to have a son in scouts – but you have to be active on the committee.
4. When an adult participates, they are expected to be current on training, and take an active role during the trip teaching and guiding in accordance with the spirit of scouting.
5. It is recommended that each outing have a minimum of four adults. This will ensure there is always two deep leadership in the event a scout, or adult, is injured and taken for medical care. The adults must also have the BSA required training for the type of outing (hiking, boating, climbing, etc)
6. Special note for arduous adventures: In general, if one adult can't complete an adventure, either a second adult should return with that person, or the entire troop may have to return if there is not adequate adult coverage. This is a scenario of strenuous backpacking trips. Likewise, if one scout can't complete an arduous adventure, two adults may need to return with the scout, or the troop may have to return if there is inadequate adult coverage to continue. Leaders will make an in situ determination.
7. For arduous adventures, each adult must be in good physical condition to complete the trip unassisted. Training and preparation before the trip may be required by the adult trip leader. Adults are expected to participate. It is up to the trip adult leader to determine the go, no/go

eligibility of scouts and adults. It is recommended that at least four adults physically capable of completing the adventure attend. The tour leader must consider possible scenarios.

8. An adult not on the troop charter or the parent of a current scout may be asked to participate on an outing because of a special skill. An example may be an expert/s invited to teach a Search and Rescue Merit badge. In this case all adults in contact with scouts will need to have YPT training.
9. Rarely should non-leader adults, or siblings be on a trip unless it is billed as a "Family Outing". The troop may target to have one or more family outings per year.
10. Unmarried adults will not share sleeping quarters (tent, camper, etc) on outings. Married couples can share sleeping quarters. Couples should also not carry on in a manner that is inappropriate or a distraction to the outing.

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