

Troop 286 Electronics Policy – 3/3/2014

- 1) Electronics are computers, phones, games and music devices. A device will include the unit itself as well as any accessories such as ear pieces.
- 2) **Adults** (Age 18 and over) are allowed unlimited use of electronics at meetings, activities and campouts providing they do not disturb others. However, adults are advised to use discretion and limit the amount of time that electronics are used.
- 3) **Scouts** (under age 18) are allowed limited use of electronics.
- 4) Electronics are allowed in cars on the way to and from meetings, activities and campouts providing they do not disturb others.
- 5) Electronics are allowed to help with program planning at the PLC and in execution of program by the teacher.
- 6) Electronics are not allowed at meetings once the meeting begins (Opening) until it ends (Closing). During the gathering period they can be used as long as duty permits (i.e. not if scout is running the gathering activity or putting gear away, or other necessary responsibilities).
- 7) Electronics are not allowed at activities once the activity begins until it ends. They can be used to call parents to be picked up from the activity.
- 8) Electronics can be used on campouts during non-program time providing they do not disturb others. While scouts can opt not to participate in a program this will not be considered non-program time. Electronics cannot be used during meals. Devices can be used while you are sleeping as long as an ear piece is used and it does not disturb others.
- 9) When an adult asks a scout to put away an electronic device, it goes away. There is no discussion about whether it is non-program time. If the scout wants to discuss the situation with the adult it is done after the item is properly put away. As mentioned below, if there is not compliance with this the first time a scout is requested to put away an item the use of electronic devices for all scouts may be suspended for the remainder of the activity.
- 10) **Inappropriate use of cameras, imaging, recording, or digital devices prohibited.** While most campers and leaders use cameras and other imaging devices responsibly, it has become very easy to invade the privacy of individuals. The use of electronic devices in a way that may be considered degrading to anyone will not be tolerated. It is inappropriate to use any device capable of recording or transmitting images or other recordings in shower houses, restrooms, or other areas where privacy is expected by participants.
- 11) A key ingredient for a safe and healthy Scouting experience is the respect for privacy. Advances in technology are enabling new forms of social interaction that extend beyond the appropriate use of cameras or recording devices. Sending explicit photographs, videos, text, or in other way electronically is neither safe, nor private, nor an approved form of communication and can lead to severe legal consequences for the sender and the receiver. Although most scouts and leaders use digital devices responsibly, the use of electronics in an inappropriate way will not be tolerated. The use of an electronic device in a way that could be considered inappropriate, offensive, or embarrassing can result in suspension of the electronics policy and a scout being put on probation, suspended, or removed from the troop. *I didn't know* or *I thought it was funny* or other excuses will not be accepted. Discipline will be at the discretion of the Troop Committee.
- 12) **Exceptions:** Scouts can be given an exception to the above rules with leaders permissions. Example, a Life scout may be planning is Eagle Project at a meeting and need to look up something on his phone or contact someone.
- 13) **Punishment:** Anyone violating these rules will be given one warning to put it away. If the device is seen again, the scout will have his device confiscated by troop leadership until the meeting, activity or campout is completed, at which time it will be returned; and the electronics use policy will also be suspended for all scouts for the remainder of the event. Scouts should police themselves; if a scout sees another scout using an electronic device at an inappropriate time he should ask him to put it away before an adult does. If a scout does not it could result in the loss of the use of electronics for everyone. If the offense is repeated, the scout's parents will be notified and the troop committee will take disciplinary action.