**TROOP 63 SUMMER CAMP POLICY**

Boy Scouting is essentially a youth leadership program. According to its charter the purpose of scouting is to promote the “ability of boys to do things for themselves and others, to train them in Scoutcraft, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred virtues, using methods which are now in common use by the Boy Scouts." This includes teaching young men about character, service, leadership, independence, fitness and instilling in them an appreciation of the outdoors.

An important component of the scouting program is the attendance at Scout Summer Camp. In addition to providing an opportunity to earn merit badges its purpose is to allow an opportunity for these young men to learn to be self-reliant and to do things for themselves, to be independent. Allowing a substantial number of parents to attend summer camp along with their son(s) is counterproductive to this purpose. Therefore, parents should not be encouraged to attend scout summer camp other than as visitors unless they are a registered assistant scoutmaster with the troop and are either a generational leader or a key leader with the Troop. In furtherance of this the following guidelines should be followed;

1. There will be 2 adult BSA registered generational leaders assigned as Summer Camp Leaders to organize and supervise summer camp, each should have attended at least one summer camp in the past and each should be from a different generation if possible. They should attend summer camp. There may have an additional individual, who need not be a registered leader, to aid and assist them in accumulating the necessary paperwork, medical forms, merit badge form, reservation forms etc. for the summer camp. This individual need not attend camp.
2. The **TOTAL** number of adult BSA registered generational leaders attending summer camp shall not exceed ten, with no more than two generational leaders from each of the four youngest generations, and no more than one from each of the three oldest generations with a maximum number of two generational leaders combined for those three oldest generations. This includes the summer camp leaders.
3. The troop will not register as a BSA leader a parent simply for the purpose of allowing that parent to go to summer camp with their son.
4. Upon the approval of the scoutmaster and consent of the Troop Committee Chair exceptions may be made for 1) a parent of a special needs scout who because of the nature of the particular special need is totally incapable of attending summer camp without the necessary assistance of the parent or for 2) a parent who is needed to provide a special service for the troop in order to attend the summer camp and which cannot be provided by those within the group of ten, such as towing the troop trailer to the camp. The existence of an IEP for a scout does not in of itself qualify, without more, as a particular special need making a scout totally unable to attend summer camp without the necessary assistance of the parent.
5. Generational leaders for the four youngest generations should know that at least one of them for each generation will be expected to attend summer camp and supervise their generations.
6. **All** generational leaders and any other adult attending the summer camp as a registered BSA leader should be current in Youth Protection Training while attending summer camp. In addition, they **all** must complete and be current with BSA online training for hazardous weather, safety afloat and safe swim and the Summer Camp Leaders should verify this.
7. All generational leaders should actively manage their generations while at summer camp this includes:
	1. Prior to summer camp determining what merit badge each scout will be taking.  Understand EACH scouts merit badge completion and make sure they are taking badges that they need to progress. This includes generational leaders for the older generations even though they themselves may not be attending summer camp.
	2. For the first two years the generational leader should assign merit badges to be taken at summer camp.
	3. Generational leaders should provide blue cards for each merit badge for each scout in your generation.  Have a stash of pens available
	4. Generational Leaders should attend merit badge classes with their scouts where possible unless otherwise directed by the Summer Camp Leaders. This shows support, helps with behavior and allow you to know what “homework” has to be done prior to leaving summer camp. (don’t come home with a partial!)
	5. If homework is assigned, set aside time at the campsite to get it done and supervise its completion.
8. A merit badge “roadmap” should be available for generational leaders.  They should understand what eagle required merit badges are not provided by the troop and what required merit badge or non-required merit badges are given by the troop as part of the troop’s program during scout meetings. In addition, Generational Leaders are responsible to see to it that the scouts in their generation take at summer camp the following Eagle required merit badges SWIMMING, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, and LIFE SAVING. In addition, most merit badges involving water activities such as canoeing, small boat sailing, rowing, kayaking should also be taken at summer camp.  They should be a path for every scout attending summer camp.
9. The Troop should make sure parents know that summer camp is a key part of the scouting experience and without it the odds of earning Eagle go way down.
10. The Troop should make sure that new parents know that summer camp is supervised, safe, and a great experience - AND it’s a BETTER experience for scouts when their parents AREN’T there.
11. The designated Summer Camp Leaders Troop agenda should be discussed and communicated to all attendees and adhered to and nightly briefings held with ALL adults attending to discuss the day’s events, issues etc.
12. All adults attending should further understand that the Summer Camp Leaders are in charge at Summer Camp In addition, it is expected that the adults attending will act as a team and as such will assist the Summer Camp Leaders as directed and further that as Assistant Scoutmasters they have a responsibility to all the scouts and not just to the scouts in their generation.
13. The senior scout attending should be designated as the Summer Camp Senior Patrol Leader and he should designate the other scout leader positions and the members of the patrols from the scouts attending summer camp upon consultation with the scoutmaster or his designee prior to attendance at the summer camp. All troop activities outside of merit badge training or camp required activities should be planned in consultation with the Senior Patrol Leader and should be implemented by him and the scouts with the guidance of the Summer Camp Leaders. In other words, the patrol method should be used in all such circumstances.