

TROOP 63 POLICY REGARDING SECOND AND FIRST CLASS REQUIREMENTS 1a.

In order to provide consistent application of the terms “troop/patrol activities” and the new phrase “outdoor activities” in meeting scouting’s second class and first class scout requirements 1a. the Troops policy is as follows:

A Troop activity is an event that is organized in whole or in substantial part by Troop 63 or is an event in which as part of its programming the Troop participates in such as a camporee or summer camp and is not a Troop meeting. Included in the meaning of Troop meetings are special purpose meetings but normally part of our meeting schedule which would include the meeting at Alders Warehouse to put Christmas wreaths together, Courts of Honor (Eagle Ceremony), Court of Awards (including picnic) or the Summer Camp shake down meeting (almost all of these take place on meeting nights.) Attendance at a Troop Committee meeting or an Eagle Board or at an outside of the meeting merit badge course such as the University of Scouting, or Camp Bulova, including those given by a troop scouter or merit badge counselor are not Troop Activities. Attending a generational meeting outside of a Troop meeting for purposes of completing a rank advancement requirement is also not a Troop activity. We also do not count the wreath sales, as a Troop Activity as a substantial portion of that event takes place at scout meetings (wreath preparation and door to door sales) or involves individual sales sometimes with substantial assistance by family. In addition, performing a community service project as part of a rank advancement, or helping on an Eagle Project which is organized and recruited individually by the Eagle Scout candidate or performing a task as part of a leadership rank, such as a Den Chief for a Cub Pack or attending a Patrol Council Meeting is not a Troop Activity.

A Troop activity also includes an activity or event not planned or substantially organized by the Troop, but which is a community organized activity that the Troop lists on its calendar and strongly promotes and encourages a significant portion of the Troop to attend. Examples of this would be the Goshen Veterans Day Ceremony, the Goshen Memorial Day Ceremony or the recent Wreaths Across America Ceremony. To get credit for this however a scout must attend in scout uniform.

In addition to get credit for attendance at a Troop Activity a scout must participate in a substantial portion of that activity. For example, to get credit for attending Scouting for Food a scout must attend at least one full day of that activity on one of the Saturdays. A troop activity which takes place over several days is considered one activity. Consequently, Red Cross CPR and First Aid training which takes place on two consecutive Sundays is counted as one Troop Activity.

The following typical yearly events are considered Troop activities:

Campouts attended by the Troop; troop hikes; the Community Dinner; Scouting for Food; Red Cross First Aid and CPR Training; Summer Camp; the West Point Fieldhouse Day, Veterans Day Ceremony; Memorial Day Ceremony.

“OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES”

In the late summer of 2017 the BSA modified Second and First-Class Requirements 1a. Prior that time a Second Class Scout was required to attend at least 3 overnight camping activities and a First Class scout was required to attend 6 overnight camping activities both of which required that the scout help erect the shelter that he was staying in. Those were modified in the late summer of 2017 to requiring 3 “outdoor activities” at least two of which involve overnight camping for Second Class and 6 “outdoor activities” at least 3 of which involved overnight camping for First Class. The use of phrase “outdoor activities” was new and apparently reflected the acknowledgement that requiring a scout to attend essentially 6 tented campouts, not including summer camp, in order to become a First Class scout was excessive but that requiring an outdoor activity component was still important.

The question is what is meant by “outdoor activity”. Does attending a community service ceremony for 30 minutes standing outside sufficient or do they mean something more? After careful consideration it is the Troops position that they mean something more. Accordingly, **“Outdoor Activities” means a Troop Activity in which the event involves outdoor craft or scoutcraft as its main component or components and is held outdoors or involves an outdoor community service project organized by the troop.** Examples would be hikes, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, kayaking, canoeing, orienteering, winter campout outdoor day competition, all campouts, Summer Camp and similar outdoor events and such community service events as a cemetery cleanup.

All generation leaders are expected to follow this policy in furtherance of their duties as a generational leader. If there is a situation where, after consultation with the other generational leaders in the generation, it is unclear whether a certain activity or event is or is not a Troop activity or Outdoor Activity the Scoutmaster should be consulted for a decision by that generations Assistant Scoutmasters. In the event it is discovered that another generational leader has already made a decision on that matter then that decision shall stand but that fact should be reported to the scoutmaster. To the extent a scout has prior to today already been approved and credited for an activity which does not comport with these guidelines he shall be considered to have complied.

Dated: February 4, 2018

