



## Unit Electronic Device Policy

As part of 893's continuing effort to bring a rich and meaningful Scouting program to its members, the following Electronics Policy has been adopted.

**893'S ELECTRONICS POLICY: *During Scouting Activities, Electronic Devices may be used as part of the Scouting program, but may not be used as entertainment or for purposes that detract from the Scouting program or are contrary to BSA policy. If a Scout's use of an Electronic Device violates this Electronics Policy, the appropriate sanctions will be applied.***

"Electronic Devices" and "Electronics" defined: Any portable electronic device capable of being used for telecommunications, electronic game playing, digital photography, internet access, social media access, or other devices that may be developed for similar type functions, as determined by the Unit Committee and Adult Leaders.

"Scouting Activities" defined: Activities offered and sponsored by 893 or any council or district of the BSA. For example, but not as a limitation to the general statement above, the following activities constitute Scouting Activities: a) unit meetings, b) patrol/crew/den meetings, c) weekend campouts, d) day outings, e) summer camp, f) high adventure outings, g) jamborees or camporees.

"Adult Leaders" include: Unit 893's *Registered* Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, and Committee Members.

### **SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATION OF 893'S ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY**

When in the opinion of an Adult Leader a scout is in violation of 893's Electronics Policy, the following actions may be taken:

- 1) A scout may be warned and instructed to put their device away; or
- 2) The device may be immediately confiscated.

This sanctions policy is not progressive - The Adult Leader may immediately resort to the confiscation remedy. If an Electronic Device is confiscated, it will only be returned to the parent or Scout at the end of the activity or outing. If repeated violations occur by the same scout, they may be prohibited from using Electronic Devices during any future Scouting Activities.

**Violations such as items 5a to 5c below (the "Non-Permissible Uses") are subject to BSA Youth Protection protocols and must be reported to the scout executive and the person in charge of the activity, and in certain instances the police may be notified.**

The Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leaders, Crew President or other scouts in a leadership position, or junior adult leaders (those under age 21) or adults not members of the Committee or in a leadership position should notify an Adult Leader if violations of this policy are occurring, and allow them to take appropriate action. The Adult Leaders will attempt to enforce this policy on a fair and equitable basis. If the scout or their parent(s)/ guardian(s) have a problem with the way this policy is applied, please notify the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairperson or present your objection at a Committee Meeting.

**Commentary:** *It is the goal of Scouting that its members learn to incorporate the Scout Oath and the Scout Law into their daily lives. Scouting teaches scouts to abide by the oath and law through group and outdoor activities, especially unit and patrol/crew/den meetings, camping, and similar activities. Modern Electronics can be useful in assisting our scouts in maximizing their scouting experiences, and 893 does not wish to restrict scouts in their use of Electronic Devices if such use is directed toward the advancement or success of the Scouting Activity in which the scout is engaged. However, if the use of an Electronic Device distracts a scout from participating in or achieving the goal of the Scouting Activity, any such use is to be discouraged by the invocation of this policy.*

*This policy is not a game in which the adults set down rules and invite scouts to see how close to the line they can get (or to move the line) before being sanctioned. That would be a distortion and violation of the spirit of The Scout Oath and Scout Law, and would itself be viewed as a violation of this policy. Thus, if a scout tries to appeal an adult's determination that a scout is violating this Electronics Policy by arguing semantics or saying the policy doesn't specifically limit their particular use, the Scout loses. Any such argument by the scout may be taken by the Adult Leader as an admission that the scout has crossed the line.*

The following guidance is provided as to what would *generally* be permitted, and what would generally constitute a violation of, the 893 Electronic Device Policy. These examples are not exhaustive, and under particular circumstances may not be applicable. Indeed, because new apps or new devices are developed at astounding rates and we could never hope to anticipate all possible uses to which scouts might use their Electronic Devices, the Adult Leaders will use their best judgment to apply the Electronics Policy when determining whether a scout's use of Electronic Device is acceptable, or not.

### **Examples Of Permissible Uses Of Electronic Devices**

- 1) Safety and Security-Alerting adults or others to a dangerous situation or injured persons.
- 2) To aid in the success of a scouting activity or program:
  - a. Use as a navigational device while participating in a GPS activity or hiking.
  - b. Identifying trees or animals in the wild.
  - c. Use of a device as a flashlight.
  - d. Recalling first aid practices if in doubt of proper technique or protocol.
  - e. Taking pictures of scouting activities.
  - f. To demonstrate completion of an advancement or merit badge requirement-Taking a picture of a fish a scout caught to show the counselor that they completed that requirement of the fishing merit badge.
- 3) Looking up advancement or merit badge requirements.
- 4) Informing parents that a meeting is over and the scout is ready for a ride, but not using the device to text or otherwise communicate with others during a meeting or during Scouting Activitytime.
- 5) As a watch or stop watch.
- 6) On the ride to or from an outing, assuming the privilege has not been suspended due to a violation of this policy during the outing or activity.

### **Examples Of Non-Permissible Uses Of Electronic Devices**

- 1) Texting or other telecommunications between scouts or third parties during a Scouting Activity, other than reasonable communication such as contacting a parent to arrange a ride home.
- 2) Use of Electronics in any manner that distracts a scout from participating in an organized Scout Activity of the Unit or the Scout's patrol/crew/den.
- 3) Use of Electronics in any manner that distracts other scouts while a program is being presented or engaged in by other scouts, leaders, or instructors during Scouting Activities.
- 4) Use of an Electronic Device as a form of entertainment during a Scouting Activity, especially if a scout holes up in a tent to the exclusion of participating in the Unit, Patrol/Crew/Den, or scouting experience.
- 5) Use of Electronics in violation of BSA policy-
  - a. No picture taking in shower or bathroom facilities.
  - b. No violations of any other person's privacy.
  - c. No bullying or cyberbullying.

**893 and its Adult Leaders are not responsible for loss or damage to any Electronic Device brought by a Scout to a Scouting Activity, regardless if the Electronic Device is in the Scout's or Adult Leader's possession.** We encourage adults to conform to this policy during Scouting Activities. Adult Leaders are expected to lead by example and conform to this Electronics Policy.

### **Family Signature Card**

All families are required to submit a Family Signature Card, to be kept on file, acknowledging their agreement to this and all Unit Policies. Unit Committee reserves the right to periodically update policies. All Unit members will be notified of these changes through a variety of methods including email, verbal, and by posting updates to Unit website.