

What Adults Do On Troop 238 Campouts & Outings

Camping and the outdoors are at the heart of Boy Scouting, so please take a few minutes to read this sheet.

Boy Scouting is absolutely different from Cub Scouting or Webelos!

In Boy Scouts, while a parent, (on some occasions) may accompany or visit Scouts on campouts, the Scouts camp with the troop and with their patrol and *do not* tent with their parent(s). The following is a summary of general troop and BSA policy guidelines.

Scout Tenting & Meals—Scouts tent with their patrol and troop in a patrol site separate from the other patrols when practical and possible. Patrols plan their own menus and cook and eat together as a team.

Adult Tenting & Meals—Adults set up tents in a site or area at a distance from the boy patrols when practical and possible. We plan our own menu and cook and eat together as a team. In general, adults do not eat or tent in a boy patrol area. Adults are part of the adult “patrol”. We will lead the youth by example.

Adult/Boy Tenting—BSA youth protection policies **forbid** an adult and a boy sharing the same tent. While youth protection policies may not apply to a parent and son tenting together, it is troop policy that boys tent with boys.

Smoking/Drinking—Drivers may not smoke while Scouts are in the car. Adults may not smoke or use tobacco products, nor drink alcoholic beverages during any Scout activity. Adults who must smoke or chew must do so discretely out of sight of the Scouts.

Boy Leadership—Adults should not interfere with the functioning of boy leaders, even if they make mistakes (we all learn best from our mistakes). Step in **only** if it is a matter of immediate safety or if the mistake will be immediately costly. If possible, involve a uniformed adult leader first. Please resist the urge to “call out” your Scout or give him special treatment, privilege, or discipline (**Yes, this is very tough to practice sometimes!**).

Think of the following sports analogy when it comes to **ALL** activities and meetings that Troop 238 delivers: Scouting is a game. The scouts are the players. The youth leaders are the team captains. The Scoutmaster is the coach. And just like in sports, there are no coaches or spectators allowed on the field while the game is being played.

Boy Growth— Avoid doing something for a boy that he can do himself. Let him make decisions without adult interference, and let him make non-costly mistakes.

Adult Training & Resources—The Boy Scouts of America provides an outstanding handbook for adults, and an excellent training course to help us understand the goals of Scouting and how to attain them. The adult manual is called the *Scoutmaster Handbook*, and it's worth your time to read it. The training is called *New Leader Essentials*, *Leader Specific Training* and *Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills*, and they are offered in our Council at least once a year. It's a good investment of your time. All leaders and adults that go on a campout must take the on line version of youth protection training. It is completely free and available 24/7. Go to www.myscouting.org and create a free account.