

# District Round Table



## Troop 505 Discipline Policy

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**Thunderbird District  
Capital Area Council**

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# Do you need one?

Not if your current  
Scouts resemble this  
guy.

And you are only  
taking on others like  
him.





# For Us – Still a work in progress!

## We needed

- A standard by which to treat similar situations and a way to document events.
- The ability to reduce “well you like Johnny, and are just picking on Clarence because...”
- A prescribed and agreed upon course of action

**Copies of our policy are available. Read it at your leisure.**

**We will just focus on the difficult issues.**





## Things to expect

- A policy will need to cover both simple mundane ('F' bombs) to very serious behavior (throwing a knife at another scout).
- You may not find out anything "happened" until days or weeks later.
- New parents will be very confused as to what to do if they witness something.
- There will be very different perceptions of what happened.  
*We use either an adult witness or third party scout(s) to determine what really happened.*
- Dads are proud of their son's "for standing up for himself" (at least initially).



# Focusing on the “big stuff” How we handle it.

**Serious infractions which affect the safety of the scouts such as:**

- *Fist Fights*
- *Knife Throwing or other activity that puts individuals in harms way*
- *Any abuse allegations of a Scout by a Scout*
- *Stealing*
- *Controlled substance use or possession*
- *Deliberate destruction of Scout, Troop, personal or private property*
- *Any other significant incident(s), as determined by the Scoutmaster*

**They do not require advanced notice that the behavior is unacceptable.**

**Some of these incidents must be reported to Council.**

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## **Serious infractions:**

**When a scout's behavior is unsafe or repetitive he is removed from the Scout activity and talked to by Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster**

- **A written record (incident report) must be made and filed with the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair and discussed with the parent.**
- **Scout must attend a Scoutmaster Conference with a parent before he can attend another Scout function.**
- **Scout must write an essay on Scout Spirit (250 words minimum).**
- **Suspended Rank advancement for (3) months.**
- **Prevent or remove a Scout from a POR.**
- ***Have required a dedicated parent Chaperone at Scout Activities.***



# File of incident reports

- **Expected that several scouts may have something in their file.**
- **The frequency and severity of the incidents are what we review to determine the next course of action.**
- **We will forward the file to Council if the scout transfers to another troop and we believe the scout could be a ongoing risk to others.**



## We have found

- **Failure to address discipline issues timely, can be extremely costly to the scouting program;**
  - Lack of interest in scout leadership positions
  - Inability to retain older scouts
  - Parents withdrawing their sons from the program
- **When writing your policy include a catch all provision.**

“There may be instances when a certain action, behavior or circumstance is so significant or egregious that it necessitates that the prescribed Action Plan procedure be superseded by the need for immediate action and consequences”.





# Questions

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