**3/26/2024**

**Troop 302 Communication – Policy Update regarding Cell Phones**

Dear Parents,

The troop leaders have decided to take a new stance on cell phone usage.

Our intent to provide a safe environment for your scouts to learn and grow.

Most recently, we have come to the realization that we cannot control what your scouts are doing on their phones or who they may be talking with via social media. Personally, this alarms me and has been in my thoughts recently. While parents have been great at follow-up when issues have arisen, we don’t want the issues to begin with. Therefore, the cell phone usage in the following situations will be the following:

**Troop meetings:**

Cell phones are not to be used during troop meetings; exceptions may be made based on the activity or if research requires it.

* A designated cell phone location will be utilized.
* Reason – they are a distraction from the program and cause the scouts to become disengaged. For those that do not have their phones or those that do and use responsibly, the usage by others causes a disturbance.

**Camping Trips:**

Cell phones will **not** be permitted by youth on camping trips. Camping trips will be used to disconnect from the notifications.

* If a scout is found to have a phone on a camping trip that is causing a disturbance for others, adult leaders will contact parents to have the phone de-activated or data disabled.
* We do not want the presence of phones by some to diminish the experience others, both in the troop and in other troops they may engage with.
* Adult leaders will capture photos to share with parents.
* Adults leaders will also provide contact information in the event of an emergency or you need to get ahold of your scout.

We believe that these policies will be in the best interest of the scouts, you as parents, and the adult leaders with regards to youth protection, which the BSA and Archdiocese of Cincinnati take very seriously.

\*Exceptions may be granted for the Senior Patrol Leader and on an individual basis with parental discussion with Scoutmaster

Terry Aufermann – Scoutmaster – 513-293-1990