

TROOP 11 COVENTRY

BY-LAWS



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These by-laws represent the clarifications and interpretations of BSA Policy as agreed to by the Scouts and Scouters of Troop 11 Coventry. If these by-laws conflict with BSA policies then the BSA policies shall take precedence.

1.0 SPONSOR

Troop 11 Coventry is sponsored by Saints John and Paul Church under the direction of the Pastor of the Church or the Charter Organization Representative (COR).

2.0 ORGANIZATION

Troop 11 Coventry is chartered under Narragansett Council through the National Office of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Troop 11 Coventry is assigned to the Shawomet District. The Troop follows all BSA policies and procedures.

3.0 ATTENDANCE

There are no specific attendance requirements except for TOW Weekend, which is mandatory for all Scouts. Although, if a Scout expects to advance in rank it is recommended he attend all Troop Meetings and Activities so advancement opportunities are not missed. Any Scout with a position must attend or risk losing his position.

4.0 UNIFORMING

The following Classes of Uniforming are defined for Troop 11 Coventry:

Full Dress

Full Dress is defined as Troop Hat, Scout Shirt (with all insignia and awards properly displayed, including all medals), Scout Pants or Shorts including Scout socks, Scout Belt, Merit Badge Sash, and OA Sash. All Clothing must be neat in appearance.

Class A

Class A is defined as Troop Hat, Scout Shirt (with all insignia and awards properly displayed), Scout Pants or Shorts including Scout socks, and Scout Belt All clothing must be neat in appearance.

Class B

Class B is defined as the Troop Hat, Scout Shirt (with all insignia and awards properly displayed), long Blue Jean pants (**no** sweat pants or shorts). All clothing must be neat in appearance.

Class C

Class C is the Troop Hat. It will be worn at every event **no exceptions**. Depending on the event the uniform to be worn will be announced at the Troop meeting prior to the event. However, all Scouts are required, as a minimum to wear Class C Uniform at **all** events.

A white tee-shirt or one that matches the primary color of the Troop Hat may be worn under the Scout shirt. ⁽¹⁾

Scouts for Troop Meetings **must** be in Class A Uniform, if not he will not be counted as attending that meeting. If a Scout attends an event prior to the meeting (i.e. baseball, basketball, etc.) the Scout is expected to bring his Class A uniform with him and change in the men's room.

5.0 MEETINGS

The Troop meets on every Thursday from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. Scouts will arrive for the meeting at 6:45 PM, unless otherwise directed.

6.0 BOARD OF REVIEW

- A) Boards of Review will be held on any Thursday as long as three (3) committee members are available and Advancement Chair is there.
- B) At least three (3) adult committee members must be on all Boards of Review. Exceptions are Eagle Boards of Review which do not require committee members. However, committee members normally participate in the Eagle Boards of Review.
- C) Scout is expected to be in **Full Dress Uniform** (including all insignia up to date, rank, quality unit award, position of responsibility, patrol patch, etc.) with his handbook completely signed, up to but not including the Board of Review. Those Scouts who are not in full dress uniform or do not have their Scout books properly signed off will not be allowed to participate in the Board of Review that night.
- D) If a Scout misses his Board of Review he must wait until the next month.

7.0 DUES ⁽⁴⁾

- A) Dues to be set at the discretion of the Troop Committee and Scoutmasters based on the funds needed to run the Troop. Dues for the year are payable in two installments. The first installment is due no later than the last Thursday in September and the second installment is due no later than the last Thursday in January.

Dues may only be changed with a three (3) month notice, and after showing good cause for the proposed change and the Troop has voted on the proposed change.

Keeping in mind that dues should not be set so high as to exclude boys from becoming members.

- B) Dues will be collected by the Troop Scribe, recorded, and receipts provided.
- C) Scouts that attain the rank of Eagle are exempt from paying dues.

8.0 TROOP FUNDRAISERS ⁽⁴⁾

- A) A Scout must participate in at least one (1) fundraiser, requiring labor, per year, for a minimum of four (4) hours. If the Scout does not participate, he will be entitled to the use of those funds when the Troop pays for an event, function, or activity. During these times, the Scout will have to pay the full fee himself.
- B) A Scout must participate in all fundraisers of the "Sale Type", i.e. Popcorn Sales, or merchandise. A Scout is expected to sell an item and return monies to the Troop. If the Scout does not participate, he will not be entitled to the use of those funds when the Troop pays for an event, function or activity. During these times, the Scout will have to pay the full fee himself
- C) Profits made, after expenses; at the fundraiser will be divided 50% for the Scouts and 50% for the Troop.

The Scouts portion will be equally divided among the Scouts; dependent upon the total hours worked, and will be placed in a Scout account under control of the Troop Treasurer. The Scout may access this account for a Scout related item (Uniforms, Equipment, Dues, Yawgoog, etc.). If the Scout has any questions as to the qualification of the purchase for reimbursement, he should obtain prior approval from the Scoutmaster. The Scout must present a receipt to the Troop Treasurer to obtain reimbursement for the item purchased. No receipt, no reimbursement.

9.0 ADMINISTRATION

- A) Other than Patrol Leaders (PL), Assistant Patrol Leaders (APL's), Den Chiefs, Junior Assistant Scoutmaster (JASM), and Troop Guides, all positions will be appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader. These appointments will be reviewed every twelve (12) months.
- B) Junior Assistant Scoutmasters (JASMs), Den Chiefs, and Troop Guides are appointed by the Scoutmaster.
- C) Assistant Patrol Leaders (APLs) are appointed by the Patrol Leaders.
- D) All Troop functions/activities will be planned at the Troop Operations Workshop (TOW) weekend, by the entire Troop, under the advisement of the Scoutmaster or his designee, Final approval of these functions/activities will be by the Scoutmaster.
- E) Any parent may attend any of the Troop Committee Meetings or Troop Meetings.
- F) The Advancement Chairperson, part of the Troop Committee, will be responsible for the arrangement and conduct of all Boards of Review.
- G) Only the Scoutmaster, SPL, ASPL, Troop Guide, Troop Scribe and Patrol Leaders will be allowed at PLC meetings. Anyone else attending will be at the invitation of the SPL.
- H) If a Scout in a position of responsibility is believed to have failed in his duties of that responsibility, the following order of due process will be taken: ⁽³⁾
 - 1) The Scout deemed in failure of his duties for his position of responsibility by the Scoutmaster and the Senior Patrol Leader shall receive a verbal warning and shall be placed on probation for one month, when he shall be reviewed again.
 - 2) If after the probation period, the Scout is still in violation of his duties, a written statement shall be given/mailed to him and he shall be reviewed weekly for one more month of probation. No more shall be done if the Scout passes his review
 - 3) If during one of the weeks of the second probation period, the Scout is still not performing his duties, he shall then be removed from his position and no time will count for advancement. If after the second month of probation, the Scout passes his reviews, he will lose one month of time and be monitored closely for the rest of his position year.

10.0 ELECTIONS

Elections will be held once a year for Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and Order of the Arrow (OA). Results of all elections will be announced immediately.

10.1 Senior Patrol Leader

The Senior Patrol Leader Election is held one (1) to two (2) weeks prior to the last Troop meeting of the calendar year.

10.1.1 Eligibility

To be eligible for SPL nomination, the Scout must meet the following minimum requirements ⁽¹⁾:

- 1) At least a Star Scout (BSA policy is at least a First Class Scout).
- 2) At least one (1) full year with the Troop (no tenure requirements per BSA policy)
- 3) At least 14 years old during time of tenure (no age requirements per BSA policy)
- 4) Good attendance at Troop meetings.
- 5) Good attendance at camp outs.
- 6) Shows Scout Spirit and wears the Scout uniform correctly.

Notes:

The deviation from BSA policy on SPL elections was requested, voted upon, and accepted by the Scouts in the Troop. If so desired the Scouts may amend these requirements during the normal by-law-update, see section 18.0.

10.1.2 Nomination

The Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters will review all the candidates meeting the eligibility requirements, as outlined in section 10.1.1, and select the best candidates. There will be a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of four (4) candidates selected. If there are more than four (4) candidates considered eligible by the Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters, a primary election will be held. The primary election will consist of all eligible candidates. After the election the number will be reduced to the four (4) candidates with the most votes, the nominees will be announced at the Troop meeting so they can prepare for the formal debate.

10.1.3 Formal Debate

The Formal Debate is held at the Troop Meeting:

- 1) Each Scout will give his own introduction (i.e. his rank, experience, training, why this make him the best candidate for SPL, and how he would like to see the Troop run). (8 min. maximum).
- 2) Open debate to questions from the floor, Scouts and Scouters. Each candidate will have a maximum of two (2) minutes to respond to each question. The total time for all candidates is limited to 20 minutes.

- 3) Three (3) questions from the SPL to each candidate. (6 min. maximum each candidate).

10.1.4 Election

Election ground rules are as follows:

- 1) One vote per Scout
- 2) A Scout must be with the Troop a minimum of seven (7) months to be eligible to vote.
- 3) In case of a tie, a runoff between tied Scouts will be held.
- 4) In case of a second tie between two Scouts, each will serve ½ year as SPL/ASPL.

10.2 Order of the Arrow

To be eligible the Scout must meet the following minimum requirements:

- 1) Fifteen (15) days of camping in the past two years, six (6) consecutive days at a resident camp.
- 2) At least a First Class Scout
- 3) Live by the Scout Oath and Law and show Scout Spirit. Fulfillment of this requirement will be determined by the Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters.

11.0 DISCIPLINE

All Scouts and Scouters are expected to live by the Scout Oath and Law. When these are violated the following levels of discipline will apply:

FIRST LEVEL - Disciplinary problems will be handled through the chain of command.

SECOND LEVEL - Disciplinary problems will be handled by the Scoutmaster.

THIRD LEVEL - Disciplinary problems will be handled by the Troop Committee in conjunction with the Scoutmaster.

The throwing of any sealed containers, flammable/combustible items, or pressurized (i.e. aerosol containers) into a fire will result in immediate expulsion from the Troop. (2)

Fighting is not tolerated. Both parties will be sent home at the Scoutmasters discretion.

Bullying is not tolerated. The Scout will be suspended from the Troop and not allowed to return until he meets with the Scoutmaster.

12.0 PATROL LEADERS

- A) Any Scout is eligible to run for the position of Patrol Leader.
- B) Elections will be held at summer camp.
- C) Tenure is for one (1) year.
- D) If a Patrol Leader does not fulfill his responsibilities he will be placed on a one (1) month probation and monitored by the Senior Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster. If he still does not fulfill the requirements of the position a new election will be held.

13.0 MERIT BADGES

- A) No counselor can teach one-on-one with a Scout unless in a highly visible area with multiple adults and youth within line of site.
- B) All new merit badge counselors will complete an adult leader application and a Merit Badge Counselor application.
- C) Scouts do not take Merit Badges presented at Troop meetings until they achieve the rank of First Class. Taking merit badges by Scout not at or above First Class will impair their advancement.

14.0 ADULTS

Adult Leaders must set the proper example for Scouts. What is deemed inappropriate for Scouts is also inappropriate for adults. Inappropriate conduct, language, behavior, etc. will be addressed by the Troop Committee.

Adult Leaders will obtain training as-soon-as possible.

15.0 EVENTS

- A) Adults will not pay for fees, if funds are available. For trips involving long distances the Troop will pay tolls and gas, if funds are available.
- B) All troop activities will have an SPL or a designated Scout as SPL and an Adult assigned by the Scoutmaster to coordinate the event.
- C) All events require the parents of the Scouts to sign a permission slip. These slips will be passed out at the Troop meeting just prior to the event. If a Scout does not have a permission slip signed by his parent he cannot attend the event. The only exceptions are if the parent or guardian attends the event with the Scout.
- D) If a Scout leaves early or arrives late at an event he will check out/in with the Senior Patrol Leader.

- F) Walking sticks, for Scouts, are **not** allowed on any Troop event, except by special approval of the Scoutmaster.
- G) The Troop pays up to \$50.00 toward all Scout and Scouters training upon successful completion, if funds are available (receipts required).
- H) The Troop pays up to \$75.00 of allowable expenses toward Eagle Court of Honor, if funds are available (receipts required).

16.0 YAWGOOG

- A) The Patrol that has the best record for patrol challenges from September through June (the Troop meeting period) will not have to perform duties at summer camp (i.e. latrine duty, campfire, etc.). The Patrol is still responsible for their personal gear and the cleaning of their tent or shelter. This privilege may be removed if the Scoutmaster and his Assistants deem the Patrol no longer eligible because of a major infraction.
- B) The CAPE COD Award will be presented each day to the tent or shelter that exhibits the best performance over the past 24 hour period. The items evaluated, but not limited to, are: quiet at taps, clean tent (inside and out), time ready for inspection by SPL in the morning, general behavior, etc. The tent that is the overall winner for the week will be presented with an award at the Court of Honor on Sunday following the dress parade.
- C) The Scouts will be assigned for bunking in shelters by age; the overflow will be bunked in tents.
- D) A Scout is required to take a least one (1) merit badge at summer camp, except when taking Scout Lifeguard BSA.

17.0 CHARTERING

The Troop pays for the Chartering of adults (except those adults at a District level), if funds are available.

18.0 REVISION BY-LAWS

The Troop by-laws may be updated twice a year. Once at TOW (September) and once at the last Troop meeting in January⁽¹⁾. All changes will be presented to the Troop and voted upon. Only when a proposed change gets the majority vote will the by-law be updated or added.

The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and up to three (3) Scouts of his choice may attend committee meetings where by-law changes are discussed. The SPL must inform the committee chairperson a minimum of two (2) weeks in advance. ⁽²⁾

All by-law changes are subject to final approval by the Scoutmaster.

(1) Revised 09/05/97

(2) Revised 09/21/98

(3) Revised 01/22/00

(4) Revised 01/27/01