

## Trail Life Troop KS-1199 Cell Phone and Technology Policies

Our Troop promotes the outdoor spirit of every Trailman by eliminating distractions when engaging in Troop activities.

### **Meetings / Other Activities**

Trailmen are to turn off or silence cellphones, smart devices, and other electronics during regular Troop meetings, and not use these devices for the duration of the meeting. Exception: Navigators/Adventurers are permitted to use their devices when presenting or if specifically needed for a topic. The policy for meetings applies to other events and activities unless the adult leaders responsible for the event announce otherwise.

### **Campouts**

Woodlands Trail Trailmen are not permitted to have cellphones, smart devices, and other electronics at campouts. These items must be left in locked vehicles or left at home. Navigator/Adventurer Trailmen may be permitted to bring a cellphone for picture taking, devotionals or emergency contact provided it is kept secured and not utilized for other purposes (e.g., entertainment, games, etc).

Exceptions to this rule are as follows: ordinary digital watches not connectable to the internet; traditional digital cameras (which must be in locked vehicles or another designated location overnight); or items specifically listed on the official packing list for the campout.

### **Enforcement & Cautions**

Troop leadership may confiscate devices for Trailmen not following this policy. Dishonesty in combination with unauthorized possession or use may lead to further disciplinary action by the troop. The outdoors isn't a friendly place for electronic gear. Even when a device is allowed, you should consider carefully whether it is a good idea to have it with you. Bringing items to outdoor events is at one's own risk.

### **FAQs**

Does this apply to parents and leaders? No. Parents and adults serving as leaders are not subject to this policy. Modeling responsible use of electronic devices is encouraged. Adults supervising youth must take care to prevent devices from distracting them from their supervision responsibilities.

What about a radio? An ebook reader? A calculator? Are these covered? Yes. These are considered electronic devices. Our intent is to include all devices unless an exception is stated.

Why? We camp to appreciate God's created outdoors; to hone our skills and experience adventure; and to build authentic relationships with our peers. Electronics are not necessary to these goals, and have a possibility to become a substantial distraction.