

BSA Troop 200 / Crew 200

Electronics Use Policy

Revision: 20161003.01

To: All members of BSA Troop 200 and Crew 200
From: Troop and Crew, a.k.a., "Unit" Committees
Re: Use and Possession of Electronic devices as outlined in this policy

This policy is subject to revision at any time at the discretion of the Unit committee. Unit leaders shall not be held responsible for any damage or loss of any electronic device found and held during a Unit event. For the purpose of this policy, "Scouts" are any registered youth, under age 18 for the Troop, under age 21 for the Crew, also including any invited youth guests attending either unit's meetings, of the same age range.

Non-adherence to this policy may result in suspension of participation in Unit activities. Flagrant non-adherence to this policy may result in expulsion of the Scout from Unit membership.

Cellular or Mobile Phones

It is the preference of the Unit committee that no Scout possesses a cellular or mobile phone while attending any Unit activities. If a Scout owns a cellular or mobile phone, it must be completely powered off during the entire meeting or activity. If meeting at the FUMC building, the device must be powered off before entering, and not powered up, until after exiting the building. The device must be left at home for all other meeting locations, including travel with Scout leaders, to and from camping and other Unit target destinations. Youth may **not** possess any cellular or mobile phone during Unit camping events, regardless of the phone's energized status.

Any Scout needing to use a phone for a purpose deemed appropriate by the Unit leader or his designee, shall be allowed to use a phone of the leader's choice. Personal Scout phones may only be powered on and used, after having received permission from the Unit leader or his designee. No Scout will ever be denied the right to contact their parent or legal guardian. Example: Scout may have a camera integrated into his phone, and want to record pictures of a non-camping Scouting event. After having received permission, he could power up the phone, take the photos, and then turn off the phone for the remainder of the event. Mobile phone cameras shall not be used on camping trips, because the device will not be available on any unit camping event.

Registered adults are encouraged to have phones and may use them. A Scout, if approved by the Unit leader or his registered Adult leader designee, can use adult's phone.

Any Scout found to be in possession of a powered on phone during any activity will have to power it off and turn it over to the Unit leader or his designee, until the activity is over. The device will only be returned to the Scout's parent or legal guardian.

Computers

The term “computer” is defined as any electronic computational device capable of accessing the Internet, by any method, or a device capable of storing off line data of any format that can display that data to anyone else.

Unless having requested and received permission from the Unit leader, his authorized designee, or his approved, registered merit badge counselor, no Scout shall possess or use a computer while attending any Unit activity. Permission to use a computer must be requested for each use.

Video Games (All video oriented games)

Video games of any type are not allowed at any Unit activity.

Non-Video capable, Non-Internet capable, Non-Cellular capable devices ONLY:

These items may be brought by Scouts on Unit activities **BUT** may only be used inside the Scout’s tent only. Furthermore, these devices shall not have any external speakers that allow the sound to be projected. Headphones/Earphones must be used for these allowed items. The only exception to this will be in the event of a sporting event that is of general interest; a radio may be used to listen to the event with the Unit leader’s permission and only when other Unit activities are not happening.

GPS (electronic compass and directional units)

Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) single-function receivers are not currently restricted and may be possessed and used during appropriate and associated orienteering related Unit activities. GPS units integrated into smart phones or computers are restricted and not allowed under this policy.

Cameras

Single-function cameras are allowed to record Unit activities. Inappropriate use of cameras, imaging, or digital devices prohibited. Images recorded that are deemed inappropriate by law, will be immediately turned over to law enforcement officials, per BSA policies.