**Troop 66 Cell Phone Policy for Scouts**

**August 1, 2024**

Due to the increasing use and at times abuse by scouts watching videos and playing video games while on a camping trips and of course the classic *“Oh I need my phone for my menu to cook”* but then to find the scout a few minutes later, off to the side on their phone playing game or watching Tik Tok. Even when rules are in place some Scouts feel it does not apply to them. When a Scout brings 6 battery backup chargers on a trip to ensure his phone is working 24/7 that is too much dependance on an electronic device when you’re supposed to be in the outdoors.

**A scout’s handbook, pen and pad are all you need for your answers and notes**.

**Camping Trips:**

**Cell Phones are banned on Camping Trips for Scouts under 16 yrs. of age.**

That includes someone who is 15 yrs., 3 weeks and 4 days. If you are not 16 yrs. of age prior to the start of the trip, then you are not allowed to bring a cell phone. Even then the Senior Scouts with phones will refrain from videos and games while on the Trip. If you cannot show proper restraint and etiquette at 16, I will move the age to 17. **Scouts under 16 who bring a phone on a camping trip will not be allowed to attend the next four (4) future camping trips**. There are plenty of adults with phones for an emergency and scouting activities managed just fine prior to electronic devices in the world.

**Troop Meetings:**

**From 7:30pm to 8:45pm no Scout should have a cell phone out in a Troop Meeting**, I know many no longer wear a watch and use the phone to check the time. For the most part there is a clock on the wall in the cafeteria. Bring your lesson in hard copy form “aka paper” or take down your notes on paper. No phone will be out during meetings. **This includes the Senior Patrol**.

**Troop Hikes:**

**Adult leaders will use “All Trails App” to document the hike distance, elevation attained and speed of the hike for all scouts on the hike**. Again, plenty of Adults Leaders with Cell Phones for an emergency.

**\*\* Adult Leaders reserve the right to confiscate a cell phone from any Scout including a Senior Scout when there in misuse during the scouting activity. It will be returned at the end activity.**

**Mr. Moran**

**Mr. Lipman**

**Mr. Periasamy**