

Dear Parents of Troop 224:

Three of the eight methods of the Boy Scout program are **personal growth, leadership development** and **association with adults**. With these in mind, we want to discuss the issue of communications by the scouts and their parents in Troop 224. We want to emphasize we are a “Scout led – Scout run” troop with adult involvement limited to areas of program, structure and safety. *Whenever possible, adult leaders or parents should never do for a Scout something the Scout can do for himself.* Tempting as it may be to help out your son, the methods of the program are lost when adults step in when not necessary.

One area of current concern is when communication with adult leaders is necessary in areas of troop information, rank advancement or merit badges. Having the Scout speak directly with the adult leader is the preferred method as this develops skills in the boy for talking with adults. It also allows the adult leader to interact with the scout on a personal basis and provide counsel for which they have been trained. A short phone message or e-mail from the scout is not difficult and begins to develop this capability which they will need throughout their youth and into their early adult years.

Parents who wish to talk to adult leaders are certainly free to do so. If you believe something needs brought to the attention of a leader, by all means contact them directly. If you wish to sit in on a conversation between your son and a leader, feel free<sup>1</sup>. But if you can let the Scout handle the communications himself you will be giving the opportunity for the program’s methods to work. If you have questions regarding a conversation between your son and an adult leader, you can certainly follow up with the adult at that point.

In terms of who your son should contact, the persons would be as follows:

- **Troop events such as meetings, outings and camping** – Your son should contact his Patrol Leader directly. The patrol leader should have the necessary information or obtain it from the Senior Patrol Leader and call your son back promptly.
- **Advancement Requirements including scheduling of Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review** – Your son should contact the Advancement Chairman, currently Chris Laubach, regarding advancement questions and scheduling. It is usually a good idea to have your son talk with the Advancement Chair on a regular basis as they will advise your son on how best to achieve their next rank, their “active” status in terms of attendance history as well as encourage your son to continue along the Scouting Path.
- **Troop issues such as patrol assignments, leadership positions, merit badge counselors or other issues of a personal nature. Also, meeting of rank requirements regarding leadership and Scout Spirit** – Your son should contact the Scoutmaster, Tarek, regarding any of these matters. Please remember Tarek is extremely busy and may refer your son to someone else to help them in a more expeditious manner.

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<sup>1</sup> The exceptions to this would be in the case of Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review.

There will be other issues not addressed above which should take place between adults. In those cases the adult should contact the following:

- **Outings and Camping Information** – Information regarding a particular outing or campout is usually disseminated at the Troop meeting on the Monday prior to the trip. Further details should be obtained by your son through his Patrol Leader. If you have further questions regarding driving assignments and directions, the Outings Co-Chairs of Monti Rainbolt and Cynthia Christiaansen can probably answer your question. If you are going on the trip and need to cancel, you also need to contact the parent in charge of the “Dad’s Patrol” who is purchasing food for the adults.
- **Advancement** – The Advancement Chair should be contacted with questions regarding your son’s advancement only **after** the Scout has met with the appropriate adult leader.
- **Troop, Policy or Program Issues** – If you see something in the troop that concerns you or simply have questions regarding the BSA program, please contact the Scoutmaster. You may also bring issues to the Troop Committee for discussion at our bi-monthly meetings. Please let the Committee Chair, Chris Laubach, know in advance so we can put it on the agenda.

We hope you realize the benefits of giving your son a chance for personal growth through developing communications skills. Their ability to lead and interact with adults will be affected by this important skill. As parents, we all know the temptation to help out our sons who are already busy with other activities and who may be hesitant to talk with adults. Historical evidence has shown, however, that the boys who do these things for themselves are the ones who will not only succeed as Scouts but in their lives beyond Troop 224.

Yours in Scouting,

Tarek Shraibati  
Scoutmaster

Jasmine Laubender  
Committee Chair