**Scouts BSA Troop 492**

**New Lenox, IL.**

**Rules of Conduct and Participation**

In addition to adhering to the BSA Scout Oath and Law, the following are the rules of conduct that have been adopted by troop 492 for youth and adults, including parents and non-registered participants of any troop 492 activities. All new Scouts joining troop 492, and their parent/guardian are expected to review and sign this agreement, acknowledging that she/they will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner while engaged with, and while representing troop 492, at all troop activities, and with other program participants.

***Rules of Conduct* Personal Behavior:**

1. All members of the troop shall address each other with respect both in title and tone. Adults shall be addressed properly as Mr./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_\_. Scouts shall not use inappropriate nicknames or demeaning tone when addressing one another.

2. Bullying, name calling, vulgar references, and swearing is not allowed.

3. Possession, consumption, or distribution of any form of illegal drugs, alcohol, smoking/chewing tobacco products, or "e cigarettes" is not permitted for any Scout/youth members.

4. Possession, consumption, or distribution of any form of illegal drugs or alcohol, is not permitted for adult leaders, guardians, or siblings at any troop function. Adults who use tobacco products are prohibited from use of those products when in the presence of any Scouts.

5. Inappropriate touching, hitting, tripping, physical aggression, fighting etc. is not permitted. Physical contact between Scouts must be appropriate and respectful and is only allowed during Scout demonstrations, games, or other such approved activity.

6. Touching, vandalizing, or stealing another person's gear is not permitted. Scouts may not interact with any property belonging to others without the property owner's permission.

7. Entertainment - magic, card games, board games, etc. played at Troop 492 events must meet the approval of the adult leader in charge.

8. Playing with, or misuse of fire-starting equipment (lighters, matches, flints, etc.) or reckless use of “fire sticks" (sticks/material taken from an active camp fire) is not allowed. Scouts are required to have their Firem'n Chit to engage in any fire-starting activity.

**Personal Equipment:**

1. **Electronic entertainment devices** (music/video players, game systems, radios, etc.) are prohibited on Troop 492 campouts and events without specific permission from the adult leader in charge. Unauthorized devices can be confiscated for the duration of the event, and only returned to the scout’s parent/guardian after the event's conclusion. Scouts are allowed cell phones for safety/emergency or photography purposes; however, misuse/abuse of cell phone apps, games, or accessories may lead to confiscation of the phone while at troop activities.

2. Making, possessing, or use of weapons (swords, spears, whips, BB guns, nun chucks, bindings, etc.) is not permitted.

3. Personal knives must be of a pocket folding style, and conform to BSA guidelines; scouts are required to have their Totin' Chip to have a personal knife at Troop 492 activities. Possession or use of straight blade knives is prohibited, unless approved by the adult in charge, and they will be subject to confiscation.

**General:**

1. Buying food or drinks without permission is not allowed on campouts. Only food/drinks provided by the troop or patrols is permitted at camp. Troop 492 discourages the consumption of soda and candy at troop camp outs. Any dietary restrictions, or special needs should be addressed with the adult leader in charge prior to planning meeting & shopping for the campout/event.

2. Care of Troop 492 equipment - All persons using Troop 492 equipment (adult or Scout) are responsible for that equipment. Any person who abuses, damages, or destroys Troop 492 equipment will be held liable for the cost to repair or replace the related equipment.

3. Only the quartermaster, (Scout or adult), or her designated assistant, may remove, issue, or approve the use of Troop 492 equipment.

4. Quiet time/ lights out is 11pm. "Lights out" means that all Scouts are settled in their tents, lights are out, and they are being quiet. The adult leader in charge has the sole discretion to make any exceptions to the time of lights out. After lights out, Scouts are expected to remain in their tents for the night with the exception of specific health or safety issues.

**Consequences of Violations:**

Troop 492 takes the safety of Scouts very seriously. These rules of conduct were created with the comfort and safety of all Scouts in mind. In the event a participant violates any of these rules of conduct the troop reserves the right to take the appropriate action. In most cases a minimum of 2 adults will discuss the offense, and the appropriate behavior with the offender. In more extreme cases the offender(s) may be immediately sent home (or required to be picked up) from an activity. For multiple, or ongoing behavioral issues, the troop committee may review the incident(s) and will determine if further action is necessary on a case by case basis. Ongoing behavioral issues will not be tolerated and can result in expulsion from the troop. In all cases parents/guardians will be informed of Scouts with behavioral issues.

***Participation Guidelines***

**Uniform(s):**

1. Troop 492 Scouts travel to and from all activities in Class A "travel" uniforms unless specified otherwise.

2. **Troop 492 Class A uniform for travel** consists of a properly fitting BSA shirt with all patches correctly displayed and affixed to the shirt. A neckerchief slide, (adult leaders may opt for an appropriate BSA bolo tie). BSA shirt should be properly buttoned and tucked in. A Scout belt. A Scout hat (optional). Scout pants/shorts, or presentable jeans or hiking shorts. And appropriate (closed toe) footwear for the specific event.

3. **Troop 492 Class A uniform for ceremony** (Court of Honor, Scoutmaster Conference, Boards of Review, parades, inspections, etc.) include, in addition to the Class A travel uniform, a troop/BSA name plate. A merit badge sash with all earned badges properly displayed and affixed. Appropriate shoulder chords, achievement pins, or other uniform appointments appropriate to the event or rank of the Scout.

4. Leggings, tights, skirt/dress, gym/sport shorts, athletic warm up pants, sweat pants/shorts are not appropriate for any Class A event and should not be worn with the Troop 492 Class A uniform for travel or ceremony. Additionally, only appropriate long-sleeved undergarments may be worn with a short sleeve Class A shirt.

5. **Class B uniform** - the current Troop 49 Class B uniform is a Safety Orange Tee shirt with the Troop 49 identifiers imprinted on it. Any other official BSA Tee shirt is permissible at Class B activities, however the Safety Orange Troop 49 Class B is preferred. Class B shirts should be in presentable condition to be worn at Troop 49 activities.

6. **Participation:** As a Scout led, Scout run program, troop 492 encourages all Scouts to be as active as possible in every facet of troop activity. Certain ranks advancements require a Scout to be active in the troop (consult your Scout handbook for specifics). A lack of Scout participation can result in delay of rank advancement(s).

**Troop 492 defines "active" as such:**

- **Tenderfoot**, **2nd Class**, and **1st Class** ranks; a scout is expected to participate in a minimum of 50% of Troop 492 activities, including troop meetings, service projects, campouts, parades, Scout shows, etc. - **Star**, **Life**, and **Eagle** ranks; a Scout is expected to participate in a minimum of 66% of Troop 492 activities, including troop meetings, service projects, campouts, parades, scout shows, etc.

- **Troop leadership position(s)**: Service credit for Scout appointed troop positions (quartermaster/ scribe/ librarian/etc.). A Scout must actively participate in that position for a minimum of 66% of related troop activities for the position. In addition, it is the Scout’s responsibility to recruit and train a replacement (approved by the Scoutmaster/ASM) for their position at the end of their term of service; with the exceptions being for elected leader positions (SPL, Patrol leader. etc.) - Scouts intending to apply participation, or leadership positions, from other BSA units, outside troop 492 (venture crews, sea scouts, etc.) towards troop 492 advancement may be required to submit proof of that service to adult leadership at their Scoutmaster conference and/or board of review.

1. These participation requirements will be used as rank advancement guidelines.

2. All scouts are expected to participate in all Troop 492 fundraising efforts. Required events are currently the annual BSA popcorn sale, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Minimum requirements as well as buyout information is given at the start of each fundraising event, and is subject to change with each event.

3. There may be instances where special participation requirements are needed (high adventure trips, invite only/limited space events, etc.). In these special cases the requirements will be made known to troop members, and will be monitored and approved by Troop 492 leadership.

4. Current BSA medical forms are required on file for Scout participation on troop activities. Medical forms need to submitted annually to the troop registrar. (Part C is required for camping outings over 72 hours).

**Troop Enrollment:**

The troop committee has the responsibility to review and approve all adult and youth applicants for enrollment in Troop 492. Troop 492 reserves the right to approve, or deny, any youth or adult membership in accordance with the applicable BSA guidelines, as well as with the advice and consent of our Charter Organization (VFW post 9545).

Participation in the troop committee is open to any parent or guardian of a registered Troop 492 Scout. In fact, it is encouraged for parents to be active in some capacity in support of the Scouts. We are a volunteer organization whose success is dependent on the dedicated leadership to assist in the planning, preparation, and execution of our many calendar activities. Not every adult needs to wear the uniform to be an integral, and important part of the scouting experience. The troop is always looking to pool talent, and experience, with the goal to make Troop 492 the best troop it can be for our Scouts.

If any further clarification is needed on these rules of conduct please do not hesitate to address any questions or concerns with the Troop Committee Chair, Scoutmaster, or adult leader in charge of an event.

Review and Acceptance – Rules of Conduct \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The goal of Scouts BSA Troop 492 is to develop the character and skills in young men that will enable them to become valuable, responsible, and honorable assets to our community. We believe that making a commitment, and honoring that commitment is a critical part of that development. In signing this agreement both scout and guardian commit to following these rules of conduct and participation.

I/we have read, reviewed, accept and agree to follow the Troop 492 Rules of Conduct.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Scout signature date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ parent/guardian signature date

This agreement must be signed and returned to the Scoutmaster or Committee Chair prior to participation in Troop 492 activities.