

Scoutmaster's Minute

Chief Yawgoog's Code of Honor

To be Used Sunday Evening in Your Troop Campsite

Please ask your Scouts and Scouters (all adults) to gather in your campsite in a circle. Use the Scout sign to bring everyone to silence.

Review these Talking Points:

- Scouts, we're fortunate to be together this week at a very special place: Yawgoog Scout Reservation. I'm looking forward to an awesome week!
- Yawgoog is not just any Scout camp.
- Troops have been coming to this site to enjoy Scouting adventure since 1916. That's why Yawgoog's nickname is "Scout Adventureland...Forever".
- At Yawgoog, Scouts are invited and encouraged to enjoy all that Yawgoog has to offer: from merit badges, to hiking, fishing, swimming, the Challenge Course and all of the other great programs.
- This week, I want you to build friendships, grow in Scouting skills, play hard, and be men and/or women of honor.
- Yawgoog is a special place for Scouts...ALL Scouts.
- Yawgoog Scout Reservation welcomes Scouts from across the world and from different ethnicities, races, religions, genders and backgrounds.
- This week, you will meet Scouts from many different states and perhaps even from another country. In fact, this summer Yawgoog has Scouts on staff from Indonesia, the Republic of Georgia, the United Kingdom, and the Dominican Republic.
- You will meet Scouts who are different from you: they may look different, talk different, or do things differently. I urge you to introduce yourself to other Scouts, get to know them, and forge new friendships. Above all, at Yawgoog, we are friendly and treat other people with respect
- At Yawgoog, ALL Scouts who agree to live by Chief Yawgoog's Code of Honor are welcome. Those that don't agree with the code or who choose not to live up to the code will be asked to return to their home.
- Prior to coming to camp, you were asked to read the code and sign the code. Those of you here tonight have agreed to live by this code during for the coming week.
- (If you have not yet had your Scouts read and sign the Code of Honor, please do so now and collect the codes. Keep them with the troop, you do not need to turn them into the camp.)
- Let's take a minute to review Chief Yawgoog's Code of Honor:
 - I have a card for each of you to remind you of the key points of the code
 - Distribute cards
 - I'd like to invite a different Scout to read each point and say something about how we can live by that point while here at camp.
 - Who wants to read the first point? (Have them read the point and ask them to add a sentence or two about how that point applies to the Scouts and interactions with Scouts from other troops.)

- *When “Courteous” is discussed, emphasize that sexual jokes, making fun of a person’s gender, or crude talk have no place at Yawgoog.*
- *When “Friendly” is discussed, emphasize that racial slurs and jokes have no place at Yawgoog.*
- *(Review all points)*

Discussion Questions:

- Does this code apply only to our interactions with those people here in our circle? Or do they apply to interactions with Scouts from other troops, staff and others in camp?
- What will you do if you see a Scout from our troop violate the code? (Give an example. Urge them to be an “upstander” to speak up and stop the violation)
- What will you do if you see a Scout that you don’t know from another troop violate the code? (Give an example. Urge them to be upstanders and to say something and if necessary, to report it to a leader or camp staff member)
- The vast majority of Scouts that come to Yawgoog have an awesome experience. But there are things that a Scout can do that *could* get them sent home. Do you remember any of those things? (Take answers.)
- Summarize actions that could send a Scout home:

Physical violence, threats or fighting	Invading privacy or peeking in the bathrooms, showers, tents or Adirondacks	Climbing on the roof of a dining hall
Sexual activity	Out of campsite after 9:45 pm	Youth Protection violation
Hazing or initiation rites	Alcohol, marijuana, or any drugs in camp	Bullying or physical intimidation
Violation of Chief Yawgoog’s Code of Conduct or the Scout Oath or Law		

To close-out, let’s have a great week.

What patrols are committed to Yawgoog’s Code of Honor? (have each patrol give their patrol cheer)

Chief Yawgoog's Code of Honor

Yawgoog is a special place for Scouts...ALL Scouts.

Yawgoog Scout Reservation welcomes Scouts from across the world and from different ethnicities, races, religions, genders and backgrounds.

ALL SCOUTS that live according to Chief Yawgoog's Code of Honor are welcome at Camp Yawgoog.

Yawgoog Scouts are the BEST SCOUTS and commit themselves to be

- Scouts with honor that do their best to live up to the Scout Oath, Law, Outdoor Code, Slogan and Motto
- Trustworthy: Respect the privacy of other Scouts and adults in bathrooms, showers, tents and cabins/Adirondacks
- Courteous: Treat others with respect. Sexual comments, sexual activity, flirting, or ogling (staring at others) are inappropriate
- Friendly: Say "Good Morning" each day with a smile. No name-calling, insults, threats or bad-natured teasing
- Clean: No jokes, insults, skits, or songs based on race, religion, ethnicity, gender, or abilities. Keep language clean
- Kind: Be welcoming to new Scouts and build up fellow Scouts
- Brave: Stand up for others. Admit mistakes and apologize when in the wrong.
- Reverent: Stand in silence and reverence when the bell tolls at noon to remember Scouts who died for God and country.

Yawgoog Scouts are "Upstanders"!

If you see someone be unkind to someone else, don't be a bystander. Instead, Yawgoog Scouts are "UPSTANDERS". If you see someone being treated unkindly: stop it and don't join in. Speak up in defense of the person and report it to a trusted leader or adult such as your SPL or Scoutmaster.

Behavior that is found to be inconsistent with Chief Yawgoog's Code of Honor or the values of Scouting, may result in discipline up to and including expulsion from Yawgoog Scout Reservation at the Scout's own expense and could result in revocation of Scouting membership.

SCOUT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

SCOUT'S PRINTED NAME: _____ TROOP: _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Scoutmaster's Minute

Good-Natured vs. Bad-Natured Teasing To be Used Monday in Your Troop Campsite

Is teasing bad? That depends!

Teasing can be “good-natured” or “bad-natured”. What do you think “good-natured” means?

- Give an example of good-natured teasing
 - “Hey Nick, I hear you scorched everyone in the fire-building contest today! You were so hot that smoke was coming out your ears!”
 - “Mallory was the ruler of the Gaga Ball pit...No one stood a chance against her! She was wiping them out left and right! Scouts were trembling with fear!”
- Solicit examples from the Scouts

What do you think “bad-natured” teasing is?

- Solicit examples from the Scouts

Any teasing can go too far. Who can give an example of bad-natured teasing. (get answers.) Can you think of a time you were teased that you didn't like it? (get an example)

How do you know that teasing is “bad-natured”?

- Get answers from Scouts
- Teasing about someone's physical characteristics—calling a redhead a “carrot-top” or making fun of someone's big feet.
- Anything that *humiliates* the other person
- Is the person being teased smiling, laughing, joining in or are they silent, withdrawing, or getting mad?

Something that doesn't bother you to be teased about may be extremely offensive to someone else.

Any teasing that relates to someone's race or color, nationality, religion, violence, rape, parents or family members, or sexual abuse is NEVER appropriate and it is not made ok by adding, "I'm just kidding."

Good-natured teasing or joking can be enjoyable for all involved and build up team and comradery. Good-natured teasing is enjoyed by all participants, does not make anyone feel uncomfortable, and doesn't go too far.

What can you do if you witness teasing that goes too far or that is bad-natured?

- Encourage them to be upstanders by speaking up for the one being teased. For example, "Nate, stop it. Leave Zach alone. You are over the line."
- If they observe teasing that doesn't stop or see someone that is constantly being teased, they should tell a trusted adult.
- Again, bad-natured teasing isn't made better by saying, "I was just joking."

What if you're the one doing the teasing. You're intending it to be good-natured, you didn't intend to hurt anyone, but you realize too late that you did go too far or that the other person was seriously hurt or offended by your joking. What can you do? (solicit answers)

Let's have lots of fun this week, let's enjoy our fellow Scouts and friendships, and let's be careful to not let teasing ruin anyone's day!

(For an article on this subject, see Psychology Today, "When Does Teasing Go Too Far" at <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-wide-wide-world-psychology/201311/when-does-teasing-go-too-far>)

Scoutmaster's Minute

What's It Mean to be an "Upstander"?

To be Used Tuesday in Your Troop Campsite

Scouts, have you ever seen someone do something unkind to someone else?

How does it make you feel?

- Solicit answers from Scouts (awkward, uncomfortable, mad, etc.)

It can be hard to stick up for a person that you see being treated unkindly. Why is it hard to speak up in situations like that?

- Solicit answers from Scouts (don't want to get involved, don't want to become the target of the teasing,

Albert Einstein said, "The world is dangerous not because of those who do harm," he said, "but because of those who look at it without doing anything."

- If you see someone be unkind to someone else, don't be a bystander. Bystanders make a decision to not act or not get involved.
- Instead, Scouts, be an "UPSTANDER". An UPSTANDER recognizes that he or she has a choice and decides, "I CAN and I WILL help make things better for this person that's being treated unkindly."
- How can you be an "Upstander"?

(See if the Scouts have any ideas)

- Speak up in defense of the person
- Tell the teaser to stop it
- Don't join in
- Suggest you and the Scout being mistreated leave and go somewhere else. For example, "Jordan, come on—let's go play Gaga ball."
- If it serious or the person being mean won't stop, report it to a patrol leader, SPL or trusted adult

(Help Scouts find the fine line between being a tattler and speaking up when things are out of hand. When possible, they should try to address the issue on their own.)

There is too much rudeness, name-calling, profanity, meanness, harassing, and anger—particularly online. Being kind is a powerful antidote to the poisons of meanness, hatred and violence.

Kindness has power! The Dalai Lama says, “Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible.”

Scouts, be an upstander this week, not a bystander.

Scoutmaster's Minute

What's Your Spark?

To be Used Wednesday in Your Troop Campsite

Ask, "What's your spark?" (Then explain what you mean by the question.)

What is it that you are passionate about? What motivates you? What do you get excited about? What's your favorite subject in school that you want to do more in life with? What is it that makes you different than others? What do you absolutely love doing? Something that you would like to be the BEST at?

Your spark is something that you could pursue and develop throughout your life. But only if you know what it is. There is a spark in each of you, even if you don't know what it is.

Some of you may already know what your spark is. Some of you probably have no idea what your spark is...and that's ok.

A "spark" can include things such as:

- I love teaching—I want to teach people
- Building things—I want to be an engineer
- Animals—I want to be a vet
- The environment—I want to study renewable energy
- Firefighting
- Oceanography
- Helping people with disabilities
- Space travel
- Etc.

Discuss:

- Ask if any Scouts have an idea of what their spark is
- Share what your spark is
- Ask other adults to share their spark

Most people only use 10% of their potential. What if you found out what your spark is and then applied 50%, 60%, or 75% of your potential towards developing that spark? You could become amazing!

What's your spark? There is a spark in each and every one of you! I encourage you to think about your spark this week. It is so important to feed your spark.

Whatever your spark is, I encourage you to discover it. Ignite it! Develop it! You can do that.

I and your other Scout leaders want to fan your spark for you. No: We want to fan your spark WITH you.

Here are some things to think about this week:

- What simple step could you take today to nurture or use your spark?
- Can you see using your spark in a career someday, or would it be a hobby?
- Does your spark help other people?
- How does your spark make you feel?
- Is there anyone in your life who helps you with your spark (a Scout leader, teacher, friend, parent, coach, neighbor)?
- Could you help someone else with his or her spark?

What's your spark? Each of you have it—I know it! Find it and nurture it!

I hope you shine as bright as you want to shine, because your spark is the most beautiful thing there is to see.