

## **T52 Cell Phone Policy**

As time goes by, we've become more tolerant of cell phones. They have actually helped us on a few occasions. Example: Some energetic Scouts got ahead of the leaders on a hike...and charged off in the wrong direction! A call to one of the Scouts stopped them and caused them to retreat and rejoin the group. Without the phone, they might still be walking...

Here are some guidelines for youths carrying cell phones:

A Scout should check with a leader before using a cell phone.

-otherwise he might be accused of playing a game or using the phone for a frivolous reason. There are many legitimate reasons for making a call, and we won't object for a good reason.

-if a Scout makes a call without permission, he is not giving the troop leadership the opportunity to help with a problem. For instance, Johnnie is cold and needs another layer of clothing. He calls mom, and she drives 35 minutes to the campsite to bring him a fleece jacket. Meanwhile, the leaders are unaware of the problem, and one of them has a spare jacket in his car....could have saved mom over an hour of driving! Troop leaders need to be aware if your son is having a problem with something.

-if your son calls you from a meeting or activity you should ask him which leader knows he made the call, and ask to speak to that leader.

-we have not had a problem with boys texting friends, etc. on trips. They're usually too busy having fun to bother with texting. If a boy is not participating in program or not working with his patrol because he's busy texting we will tell him to put the phone away. If that doesn't stop it then we may hold the phone for the remainder of the trip. Same goes with troop meetings.

Please contact Allan with questions or concerns, or if you have suggestions on how to better handle this issue.

Thank you.