

Troop 301

St James, NY

Chaperone Guidelines

Troop 301 welcomes parents to chaperone trips. In order to provide the best experience possible for all the Troop 301 scouts, there are some guidelines we all need to follow:

Before the trip

Training: In addition to all Uniformed Leaders and Committee Members, Suffolk County Council is now requiring all chaperones to take BSA Youth Protection Training. The training can be taken on-line and will take just a few minutes. There is no cost to take this training. To view the training course, go to the Boy Scouts of America website at <http://www.scouting.org/> and look for the Training link (it's sometimes called eLearning). In addition to the required course, "Youth Protection Training", you will also see other on-line training courses listed. The course titled "This is Scouting" provides a good overview of the Scouting Program.

Medical Forms: Everyone attending a Troop 301 trip must have a medical form on file with the troop. That includes both scouts and adults. The medical form can be downloaded from the Troop 301 website at <http://www.t301.org/> in the Forms section. Completed medical forms should be turned in to Brian Bindert.

During the trip

Safety First: If you see any scout doing something unsafe or dangerous, please step in to prevent any accident or injury, then make a Uniformed Leader aware of the situation. For example, one of the safety issues you may see on a scout trip is a scout going somewhere without his buddy. If you see a scout on his own, enlist another adult, approach the scout together, and have the scout locate his buddy. Afterward, be sure to inform a uniformed leader of the conversation.

Support: You are obviously there to support your son. Please encourage him to enjoy the event among his fellow scouts. Most, if not all events have a defined program. Encourage your son to participate in the program and work with his patrol and the troop to achieve their collective goals.

Suggest: Offer observations and make suggestions. But please make those suggestions to uniformed leaders only. This is sometimes very hard to do! Troop 301 is a boy-run troop. The Scout in charge is the SPL (Senior Patrol Leader). The SPL will direct Patrol Leaders and scouts as appropriate. In turn, the SPL should take direction only from the Scoutmaster. Please respect this organizational structure. The Uniformed Leaders are trained by the Boys Scouts of America, an organization with 100 years of experience, in how to best implement the Scouting Program. Sometimes those methods are not obvious to those of us who have not received that training. So talk to the leaders.

Cooperate: As chaperones we are invited guests, but remember we must follow BSA rules during the event. Occasionally a Uniformed Leader or even a scout may make a request of a chaperone. Please cooperate to the extent possible. On many campouts, the "Old Goat Patrol" (collectively the Uniformed Leaders) offers to shop for provisions and prepares meals for all the adults attending, leaders and chaperones – all for just your share of the cost of the groceries. Meal times are great for communicating, so please consider joining us.

The uniformed leaders are volunteers. And no one sees everything. Please keep both things in mind as you help them to implement the Scouting Program for the benefit of your son and all the boys in Troop 301.