



Troops 505 & 1505 and Crew 505

Electronics Policy

Troops 505 & 1505 and Crew 505 have a progressive electronics policy, based on the Scout Law, in effect during meetings and scouting events to ensure scouts are getting a way from everyday life, enjoying the outdoors and staying focused on the skills and tasks at hand. Electronic devices should not be a distraction during program time. A scout is courteous and pays attention to the program, and does not interrupt a conversation to check messages. For example, use of a cell phone at a campfire would not be courteous and distracts from the outdoor experience.

The right to use electronics is dependent upon earning the Cyber Chip. The Cyber Chip is valid for one year from the date of issuance. The Troop will help all scouts earn the Cyber Chip on an annual basis; it is considered to be similar to the Totin' Chip and the Fireman Chit. A scout is loyal and works to achieve this certification. Information about the Cyber Chip can be found at: <https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/cyber-chip/>.

The use of electronic devices will not interfere with Troop camping experiences. Entertainment functions of devices: music players, gaming systems, video players, etc., are not allowed at campouts unless expressly stated in the announcement for the event by the Scoutmaster in charge of the event. The Scoutmaster in charge will define when the devices may and may not be used. The adult leadership retains the right to revoke electronic privileges on a campout if not appropriately used. In the event these privileges are revoked, an explanation will be provided by adult leadership. A scout is obedient and respects these rules.

Any audio, photograph or video including identifying information such as scout or leader faces, names or event location (often embedded in GPS data included in cell phones) is only to be posted to the following secure Troop websites and social media site: TroopWebHost, troop505.org and the Troops 505/1505/Crew 505 Facebook group. All materials posted are subject to scout leader and adult review for content and appropriateness and may be removed at the scout leaders' discretion. No audio, video or photograph is to be posted to Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, TikTok or other such sites that are public in nature.

Postings must adhere to the principle that a scout is clean and reverent. A scout is loyal and trustworthy, and posts only appropriate information about the Troop and their fellow scouts.

Scouts may bring other electronic devices not covered by this policy only with the prior consent of the Scoutmaster in charge of the event.

While traveling to and from scout events, electronic devices are allowed to be used in the car at the discretion of the driver. The content of all material must be scout- and age-appropriate since a scout is clean and reverent.

There may be limited places to recharge devices. A scout is thrifty and conserves battery life, and is not reliant on the device. Charging points should be shared among scouts; a scout is friendly, courteous and kind as well as thrifty. If a scout finds the device is out of battery, the scout cheerfully finds an alternative activity.

Scouts may have cell phones during Troop meetings but cannot use any function of the phone until the meeting is adjourned without the express approval of an adult leader. In the case of virtual or online events including but not limited to Troop meetings, merit badge reviews or rank advancement, a scout must have a valid Cyber Chip in order to participate. If the scout's Cyber Chip is no longer valid, they must take steps immediately to earn the Cyber Chip in order to participate in any virtual event.

Adults will limit their use of electronics to those devices necessary for Troop business and safety during Troop activities. We ask that any adults exercise discretion when using their phones, using non-scout-related electronics a way from plain sight of the scouting activity.

Please note: The scout assumes all risks and potential financial expenses and full responsibility for theft and/or damage occurring for any reason to any mobile phone or electronic device accompanying to a scouting event.