



ELECTRONICS POLICY

Chartered by Christ Church United Methodist, The Woodlands, Texas
6363 Research Forest Road, The Woodlands, TX 77381

The Adult Leadership and Patrol Leaders Council have derived the following Electronic Device Policy for Troop 889:

1. Electronic devices are categorized into three categories: communication, positioning and personal:
 - **Communication devices** include, but are not limited to: cell phones, cell-enabled devices, shortwave ("ham") radios, and two-way radios.
 - **Positioning devices** include, but are not limited to: Handheld Global Positioning Systems (GPS), powered compasses, etc.
 - **Personal electronic devices** include, but are not limited to: iPods, iPads, Surface, wifi enabled devices, MP3 Players, handheld video devices such as Game Boy, Nintendo DS, and all other such handheld gaming systems.
2. In general, portable electronic devices are contrary to the basic Scouting outdoor program philosophy, however, it is recognized by the Leadership of the Troop that such devices have become a ubiquitous part of society and should be blended into the Scouting experience in a productive a practical manner. As such, the following rules apply:

Communication Devices:

- Personal or Troop owned communication devices will only be used as necessary and under strict supervision and approval by the Scoutmaster (or designee) and Senior Patrol Leader.
- Unnecessary use of communication devices, to include texting, will result in the confiscation of such device until the end of the event or activity.
- All communication devices will be stowed unless in approved operation.

Positioning Devices:

- GPS, and other similar devices, are to be used in conjunction with training or hiking/pack packing outings as deemed appropriate by the Scoutmaster (or designee) and Senior Patrol Leader.
- All positioning devices will be stowed unless in approved operation.

Personal Electronic Devices:

- No personal electronic devices may be used during Troop meetings, outings or other Troop sponsored events. Use of such devices will result in confiscation by the Troop leadership for the remainder of the event.
 - Personal music devices may be used with appropriate ear phones only on overnight outings *after* the designated quiet time has begun while in assigned sleeping quarters (i.e. tent, cabin). All such use must be preapproved by the Patrol Leader under the guidance of the Senior Patrol Leader. Cross over devices, such as cell phones with music capabilities, are covered by this rule.
3. Exceptions to these rules include the following:
 - Electronic medical devices, such as insulin pumps, hearing aides, or glucometers used by Scouts or Adult Leaders are exempted from these rules.
 - At least one Adult Leader will carry a cell phone on their person at all times during Troop outings.
 4. Confiscation of personal electronic devices shall be done in accordance with this policy and may be acted upon by any Adult Leader, the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistance Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader or Assistant Patrol Leader. Any confiscated device will be given to the Scoutmaster (or designee) at the earliest practical time after confiscation occurs. In general, confiscated devices will remain in the possession of the Scoutmaster (or designee) until the end of the Troop event, unless determined otherwise by the Scoutmaster (or designee).



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5. This policy will be temporarily suspended by District, Council or National level events with contradictory electronics policies in place. Such events may include Camporees, Summer/Winter Camps and Jamborees.
 6. This policy is subject to modification as deemed necessary by the Adult Leadership of Troop 889 in conjunction with reasonable requests by the Patrol Leaders Council.