**Troop 243 Medication Policy**

Troop 243 recognizes that many Scouts and adult leaders occasionally, or even routinely, take some form of prescription medication to alleviate the symptoms of any number of legitimate acute or chronic conditions. The possession and use of legally prescribed medications is acceptable within the guidelines of this policy.

1. It is the responsibility of the scout and his parents to maintain and administer any prescription medication.

2. Before a scout may bring any prescription medication to a campout or other outing sponsored by Troop 243 or the BSA, he must first submit a medication form provided by the troop to an adult leader on the outing. The form will notify the leaders on the outing (i) that the scout is carrying medication, (ii) what that medication is, and (iii) the prescribed dosage of each medication. The adult leader who collects the forms will be designated by the troop and may change for each outing.

3. All medications must be carried in the original container. In the case of prescription medication, a legible label showing the name of the medication, the prescribing physician and prescription number must be affixed to the container.

4. The scout should bring only enough medication to last the duration of the outing.

5. The troop will provide a separate container or lock box for the safe storage of medications. For the safety of all the scouts on the outing, most medications will be stored in that container. It remains the scout’s responsibility to request his medication from an adult leader at the proper time. It is not the responsibility of the troop, or any adult leader, to administer any medication.

6. However, in some circumstances, it may be advisable to leave a medication in the possession of a scout. For example, it may be necessary for a scout to have immediate access to emergency medication (such as an EpiPen). Some medications may require a high degree of confidentiality (for example, when a scout is not comfortable taking his medication in front of his peers). Whether it is advisable to leave a medication in the possession of a scout will depend on a number of factors, such as the nature and severity of the illness, the maturity of the scout, the type of outing and the activities involved, etc. The decision to leave medication in the possession of a scout is ultimately the responsibility of his parent or guardian, *with the knowledge and consent* of the adult leaders on the outing. If the adult leaders are uncomfortable with a decision made by a parent or guardian of a scout, they may withhold their consent. In that case, the scout may not attend the outing unless the parent or guardian accompanies the scout on the outing and assumes full responsibility for the medication. It is important to note that in every case written notice of the medication must still be received by an adult leader on the outing, even in cases requiring a high degree of confidentiality.

7. The designated adult leader along with the SM or Acting Scoutmaster for the outing will be solely responsible for the decision above. As the leadership will change from one outing to another, the decision of possession may change from one outing to the next. Every effort will be made to maintain consistency, however it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to check with the designated leader on each and every outing.

8. If a parent or guardian cannot accept these guidelines, he or she has the opportunity to accompany the Scout on the activity to insure that the medication is properly administered.

9. Many BSA sponsored long-term camps (such as summer camps, the high adventure bases, and the National Jamboree) have their own specific policies concerning medications, in part due to different laws in the states where they are located. For example, some camps may require that all medications be turned into the “health lodge,” to be administered by trained staff personnel, or may require that each troop designate a responsible adult. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the policies above, Troop 243 will abide by the policies of any BSA sponsored long-term camp that we attend.