

United States Army Support to Boy Scouts

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1. PURPOSE. To provide guidance regarding US Army support to Boy Scouts.

2. Boy Scout Troops Are Private Organizations.

a. The Department of Defense has a long tradition of providing limited support to Boy Scout Activities. Despite this enduring relationship it is important to remember that the Boy Scouts of America is a private organization (PO), and will be subject to the same requirements of any other private organization operating on a military installation. To this end, Boy Scout Troops are subject to the following policy and regulatory requirements:

1) Boy Scout Troops must obtain permission from the Garrison Commander IAW AR 210-22, Paragraph (¶) 2-1, to operate on the installation.

2) Boy Scouts will not be given *exclusive* rights to use property or facilities on the installation, however, Boy Scout troops may access to Fort Knox; IAW AR 210-22, any registered private organization (PO), to include Scouting organizations, may be granted a short-term, revocable license of land, facilities or space for regular, occasional or non-recurring use of property on the installation by the installation commander (see AR 405-80, ¶ 4-20). Installation Commanders may authorize use of space for Scout meetings provided commanders are willing to give equal consideration and support to comparable events and sponsoring organizations.

3) The Boy Scouts may request support for activities IAW AR 360-1, ¶ 3-1, however, the support must not create the appearance of preferential treatment to Scouting organizations, and must be provided in a manner to avoid the perception of US Army endorsement of the Boy Scouts.

4) Commanders or organizations may provide, on a limited basis, the use of facilities and equipment (and the services of Army personnel necessary to properly use the equipment) to support charitable fundraising events when they determine all of the following:

(a) The support does not interfere with the performance of official duties (including the duties of the entire office, not merely the personnel directly concerned) and does not detract from readiness;

(b) Community relations with the immediate community, legitimate DoD public affairs interests, or military training interests are served by the support;

(c) It is appropriate to associate the US Army with the event;

(d) The event is of interest and benefit to the local community, the command or organization;

(e) The DoD component command or organization is able and willing to provide the same support to comparable events sponsored by other similar private organizations; and

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(f) The use is not restricted by other statutes.

3. National Jamborees and US Statute.

a. Under 10 USC 2544 the Secretary of Defense permits the Boy Scouts of America to borrow materials such as cots, blankets, commissary equipment, flags, refrigerators, and other equipment without reimbursement; and to provide expendable medical supplies, as may be necessary or useful to the extent that items are in stock and items or services are available. No expense shall be incurred by the United States Government for the delivery, return, rehabilitation, or replacement of such equipment.

b. In the case of a Jamboree held on a military installation, DOD may also provide personnel and logistic support at the military installation provided such activities will not interfere with the requirements of military operations.

c. National Jamborees are unique events and require significant advanced planning and preparation. In the event that a National Jamboree is proposed to occur on or near Fort Knox, please contact your ethics advisor immediately to begin coordination.

3. As always, civilian employees and military personnel should check with an ethics counselor before doing anything that may raise ethical concerns. The attorneys within the Administrative Law Division of the Staff Judge Advocate are designated ethics advisors for Fort Knox and can assist with any inquiry regarding providing support to private organizations.