

Pine Tree Council 146 Plains Road Raymond, ME 04071 207-517-6196 www.pinetreebsa.org

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Scout Executive Gary Savignano

Pine Tree Council Service Animal and Pet Policy

Purpose:

The Pine Tree Council is committed to ensuring that all participants, volunteers, and visitors have an equal opportunity to enjoy our camping programs and facilities. To maintain a safe and healthy environment for all, the following policy outlines the Council's stance regarding service animals and pets at council sponsored, district sponsored, and unit specific activities and camping events.

Policy:

1. Service Animals Permitted:

Service animals, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), are welcome at all Pine Tree Council camps and other Scouting events. A service animal is a dog (or, in limited cases, a miniature horse) that has been individually trained to perform specific tasks directly related to a person's disability.

2. Pets Prohibited:

Only service animals as defined by the ADA are permitted at Scouting events. Pets and other animals- including emotional support animals, therapy animals, and companion pets- are not allowed.

The term "Scouting events" includes but is not limited to camporees and other overnight events, day activities, unit-level activities, council and district level camp programs, and gatherings and activities by other Scouting related groups and organizations.

3. **Behavior and Control:**

- Service animals must remain under the handler's control at all times and be harnessed, leashed, or tethered unless such devices interfere with the service animal's work or the handler's disability prevents their use.
- Handlers are responsible for the care, supervision, and cleanup of their service animal.
- A service animal that behaves in an unsafe or disruptive manner (e.g., uncontrolled barking, aggression, or failure to eliminate waste appropriately) may be required to leave the premises.





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4. Health and Safety:

- Service animals must be in good health and up to date on vaccinations as required by state or local law.
- For safety and hygiene reasons, animals are not permitted in food preparation or serving areas.

5. Verification:

Staff or volunteers may ask only two questions to determine whether an animal qualifies as a service animal:

- o Is the animal required because of a disability?
- What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?
 Staff will not request documentation or require the animal to demonstrate its tasks.

Enforcement:

Violation of this policy may result in the individual being asked to remove the pet from the event site. Repeated violations may result in exclusion from future council events.

Effective Date:

This policy is effective immediately and applies to all Pine Tree Council camps, events, and properties.

