I. ESTABLISHMENT

Section 1.01 Establishment

The following policies, as approved and adopted on November 3, 2015, are established for the general operation of Troop 9462, in accordance with Article V, Section 5.01 of the By-Laws of Troop 9462, Northwest District, Northern Star Council, Boy Scouts of America, hereinafter referred to as Troop or Troop 9462.

Section 1.02 Troop Philosophy

The Troop vision is to have a completely boy led Troop, one which focuses on learning through camping and high adventure opportunities. To do this, we count on the boys to establish and implement ideas. This is often a challenge for the boys and the adults alike, but the rewards of such a program are tremendous. The adult leaders are available for guidance and safety purposes, not to establish and run the program.

II. FEES

Section 2.01 Youth Registration Fees

Each registered member of Troop 9462 shall pay, as designated by Northern Star Council, the registration fee to become a member of, or to maintain membership in, the Boy Scouts of America.

Section 2.02 Annual Dues/Fundraising

Each registered member of Troop 9462 shall pay an annual due of \$100 to cover Troop expenses within the *General Operating Fund*. The Troop coordinates a yearly fundraising project to assist registered members with earning funds to help cover the cost of annual dues. Any fundraising earnings over the annual due amount \$100 will be set aside in the registered member's personal camping account.

Section 2.03 Youth Activity Fee/Camping Account

Each youth member, in addition to paying the annual registration fee, shall maintain a minimum amount, set by the Troop Committee, in his personal camping account. This will be accomplished through fundraising, and if needed, by collecting an activity fee at the time of the Troop's rechartering. The Troop Committee may authorize the collection of additional fees from one or all youth members as their accounts diminish. This personal *Camping Account* cannot be depleted or the boy will have to pay for each event as they come up, or he might not be allowed to attend the event. After confirming attendance and the Troop incurring activity related expenses, youth members are responsible for the covering the activity fee for camping trips and activities from their personal *Camping Account* even if that member does not attend. Youth members may utilize surplus funds from their *Camping Account* to purchase scouting related equipment. The Troop Treasurer or his/her designate shall maintain accurate records of each youth member's *Camping Account*. When a scout leaves the scouting program with funds remaining in his account, that credit is transferred to the Troop's *Campership Fund*.

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Section 2.04 Campership Fund

This fund is intended to assist families in keeping their son active in the Troop. This fund will contain a maximum of \$500. Contributions over that maximum will be directed into the Troop's *General Operating Fund*.

Section 2.05 Financial Hardship

The Financial Committee (comprised of Scoutmaster, Committee Chair, and Treasurer) will review applications on an individual basis and may order the payment, from the Troop's *Campership Fund*, any registration or camping fee of any youth member of the Troop, if financial hardship is an issue for the youth member's family. No stipulations have been established for meeting the requirements. For confidential assistance, contact an Adult Leader for details.

Section 2.06 Adult Registration and Camping Fees

Membership and camping fees of any registered adult member of Troop 9462 may be paid from the Troop's *General Operating Fund*, if the Troop's financial condition warrants. If the Troop's financial condition does not warrant such payment, the adults will be responsible for such payment.

III. ATTENDANCE

Section 3.01 Troop Meetings

- (a) YOUTH MEMBER Youth are encouraged to attend as many scheduled Troop meetings as possible, since attendance is crucial to the success of the Troop and each boy's progress. Troop meeting attendance will be considered when determining if the youth qualifies for rank advancement. It's important that boys communicate with their patrol leader, if they are unable to attend meetings or events. Should Troop meeting attendance fall below 75%, the scout should discuss the issue with the Scoutmaster or designate.
- (b) YOUTH LEADERSHIP Members of the PLC (Patrol Leader's Council) should attend 100% of Troop Meetings. If unable to attend, they should communicate with the Senior Patrol Leader, Scoutmaster, or designate. Attendance by youth leadership is crucial to the operation of the Troop and fulfillment of the program they are actively planning. If attendance becomes an issue, rank advancement and/or continuation in the leadership position may be in jeopardy.

(c) ADULT LEADERSHIP

SCOUTMASTER

The Scoutmaster shall attend 100% of Troop and Committee meetings unless prior arrangements are made with a designated backup.

• ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER

Registered leaders shall attend a minimum of 60% of Troop and Committee meetings.

• COMMITTEE MEMBER

Committee members shall attend a minimum of 80% of Troop Committee meetings.

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Registered leaders are expected to participate in Troop and Committee meetings or to provide some area of support within their expertise. Leaders who are not actively involved in Troop activities, but who wish to stay connected, are expected to cover the cost of their own rechartering or the committee may decide not to recharter them.

Section 3.02 Troop Events/Camping

- (a) YOUTH MEMBER In addition to attending Troop meetings, each youth member of the Troop shall attend: a minimum of three events, such as camping, and three of the scheduled service projects per year. The scouting program depends upon attendance, and it is considered when determining if the youth qualifies for rank advancement.
- (b) ADULT LEADERSHIP In addition to attending Troop or Committee meetings, each registered adult leader shall attend at least three other Troop events during the year (i.e. service projects, camping, courts of honor, boards of review, etc.).
- (c) FAMILY MEMBERS The scouting program would not be successful without the support and encouragement from the boy's entire family; however, the program is not designed or intended for family members. The Troop will occasionally invite parents/guardians and/or family members to participate in Troop events, but unless otherwise noted, scout functions are for registered scouts and scouters only.

IV. GENERAL RULES OF CONDUCT

Section 4.01 Governmental Laws

All members of Troop 9462 shall comply with the laws of the United States of America, the State of Minnesota or any other State in which we travel, and the City of Little Canada, Minnesota and any other municipality in which we travel.

Section 4.02 Behavior

Scouts are expected to follow the Scout Oath and Scout Law and adhere to the policies of the Boy Scouts of America and the Charting Organization at all meetings and events. The following conduct shall not be permitted: fighting, threats of physical harm, intentionally causing physical harm, actions which are reckless or careless which cause or may cause physical harm, harassment of any kind, swearing or use of other inappropriate language, destruction of Troop property or property of others, intentionally failing to obey a request or demand of a person in authority, or other conduct which may be deemed to be detrimental to the well-being of others or the well-being of the Troop.

Section 4.03 Safety

No scout may carry a knife or ax of any kind until he receives the Totin' Chip. Prior to participation in any water activity, each Scout must demonstrate his ability to swim. No Scout may operate a boat or canoe alone, and each Scout will wear a life jacket when he is in a boat or canoe. Scouts will wear helmets when riding bicycles. Troop 9462 will follow all other safety guidelines in the Guide to Safe Scouting.

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Section 4.04 Equipment

No weapons (other than pocket knives) may be brought to any Troop meeting or activity. Scouts may not bring electronic gear to Troop activities unless authorized by the Scoutmaster.

Section 4.05 Supervision

Scouts must remain in the immediate vicinity of any meeting or special activity, leaving the area only with the permission or knowledge of the Scoutmaster, Senior Patrol Leader, or supervising leader.

V. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Section 5.01 Confidentiality Clause

Any disciplinary action will be kept confidential and won't be openly shared beyond the Boy Scouts of America, Northern Star Council, Troop Committee, Troop Leaders, Chartering Organization, parents/guardians or other persons involved with a need to know.

Section 5.02 Youth Safety

No disciplinary action taken by or on behalf of Troop 9462 shall intend to result in physical harm or the potential for physical harm.

Section 5.03 Consequences for Inappropriate Action

- (a) Consequences for violating the *General Rules of Conduct* (as determined by the Troop Committee), may result in any of the following: restitution for damaged or destroyed Troop or personal property, removal from any office or position held in the Troop, denial of rank advancement through a Board of Review, extra duty at Troop camping or other events, suspension or expulsion from Troop 9462, or other consequences not in conflict with the policies of the Boy Scouts of America.
- (b) In addition to any of the consequences stated in (a), violation of *the General Rules of Conduct* may also result in the scout's immediate removal from any Troop event, including any camping event, as determined by the Scoutmaster or designate. Any transportation cost incurred would be the responsibility of the boy's parents/guardians.

Section 5.04 Authority for Disciplinary Decision Making

In most cases requiring disciplinary action, the youth member shall be referred to the Scoutmaster or his/her designate to discuss the incident, allowing the scout to explain his version of what happened. The Scoutmaster may, however, refer any matter pertaining to discipline to the Troop Committee at his/her discretion. The Troop Committee will review any Scoutmaster referral for conduct violations, including those issues that may lead to suspension or expulsion from the Troop. Parents/guardians will be informed of conduct violations and may be required to attend any formal review involving their child.

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