Troop 80, Boy Scouts of America
Cortland, New York

March 15, 2005

From: Mike Brown, Scoutmaster, Troop 80
To: Scouts and Parents of Scouts going to New England

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SPRING TRIP

The trip should prove to be quite interesting. We will have 8 Scouts along. As things stand now, the leaders/drivers will be myself, Assistant Scoutmasters Jerry Friedman and Joe McDermott, and Mr. Helwig (and possibly Mrs. Marks). This letter should answer any questions you may have regarding the trip. Please read it and see me if there are any questions/problems.

1. If you have not made your final payment, and if you must pay on Friday the 11th, make it cash, as I can't cash checks at 5 in the evening.

2. This is an official troop activity, and we will be touring as Scouts. Therefore **SCOUT UNIFORM is required and will be worn *at all times***! No excuses, no exceptions. Do not plan to wear you uniform under a sweatshirt, either. **Troop hats will be worn with the uniform at all times**. Bring your old one, as we don t have any new ones.

3. **The Scout Law, of course, will be in effect**. As we travel, you are representing Scouting to the general public. All Scouts in this troop know what kind of behavior is appropriate to Scouting, and what is not. The other leaders and I should not be spending any time this trip reminding you.

4. When we are in museums and the like, we will break up into smaller groups. Unless otherwise announced, each group *will* contain one of the adults. At some places, we may permit groups of Scouts to tour without adults, if the attraction rules allow it. The privilege of touring in groups without adult leaders is just that - a privilege. Any horseplay or complaints will eliminate the privilege for the entire group for the rest of the tour.

5. We will be spending between 2 and 3 hours driving each day (other than the first and last days). At the meeting before we leave each Scout will sign up for the cars he will be riding in for each of the days of the trip. In order to allow each Scout and Leader the opportunity to get to know each other, and to minimize the chances of justifiable homicide, each Scout will be expected to sign up for a

different driver each day. If you do not sign up for a specific car, you will be assigned at random.

6. We will be staying at a Churches each night along the way. **Bear in mind that we are guests, and act accordingly.** Before we leave each morning, the *area will be clean*. All members of the group, without exception, will participate in this responsibility.

7. On past trips, some Scouts spent most of their time looking for film, having come with empty, or nearly empty, cameras. **Please buy your film before you leave!** It's a lot cheaper in Cortland than at any tourist area, and why waste time looking for film when you could be sightseeing? Change the batteries in your camera and flashlight before you leave, too.

8. **Bring the following**: Clothes (see below), personal gear (soap, towel, etc.), sleeping bag and pad, camera and film, a watch, your mind, spare shoes/sneakers/boots (lots of walking to do), and whatever else seems appropriate.

9. **Do NOT bring the following**: food (NO EATING IN THE CARS!), fireworks or other explosive, flammable, toxic or radioactive materials (do I really need to say this?), axes, shovels, rakes and other implements of destruction, or anything else you don't want me to catch you with. I might add that even though fireworks might be legal in Massachusetts or Connecticut (I doubt it) **they are completely forbidden for this group**.

10. **Clothing:** In addition to the Scout Uniform and the usual underclothes, socks, etc., be prepared for cool and changeable weather in New England in Springtime, especially this year. Pack a light jacket and/or windbreaker, and some form of rain gear. If anyone forgets his rain gear it *will* rain and I'm going to blame HIM! Be forewarned.

11. **Please bring your gear in ONE SOFT PACK OR DUFFEL BAG ONLY.** Rigid frame packs or hard-sided suitcases take up too much room in cars, and room will be at a premium. Pack as little as possible - we'll only be gone 5 days.

12. Walkmans (Walkmen?) and portable video games seem to be popular with this group. These are OK, in their place - which is in your bunk or in the cars. We will be visiting many interesting places over the course of the trip. It is important that you be able to hear what is going on. More important, perhaps, is that it is simply discourteous to be listening to your CD or playing your game in preference to those who have taken their time to be with you. If you must bring your electronic pacifier, bring it, but it will NOT be permitted when we are out of the cars or the camp area. **Any walkmen I see on Scouts when we are touring, I**

will keep for the duration. Period. Don't ask. **Radios with speakers are not permitted** at all. If I hear it, it's mine.

13. If you do bring any electronic equipment, or, indeed, anything of value, do not leave it in clear sight in the cars when they re parked. Conceal valuables in packs or trunks or under seats.

14. **Money:** We will be supplying transportation, food, lodging, and admissions. That about covers the waterfront. Bring *just enough* for souvenirs, gimcracks, geegaws, doohickii, or whatever else you may find that you cannot live without, for spare film, and for snacks if you think you'll need them. Use your own judgment. $20 should be sufficient, in my opinion, but then I do not share the Scout passion for tooth decay.

15. **Food:** We will be eating primarily at fast fooderies or cafeterias. You will be given a budget for each meal, to be announced at the meal. I will decide what the budget is, based upon the cost of a "typical" meal at the prices charged by wherever we're eating. The troop will pay for your food up to the amount of the budget. We will all get on one line, order, and find a table. ***REMEMBER WHAT YOU ORDERED!*** If you want more than the budget will cover, or want seconds afterwards, you will have to pay the difference.

16. *We will be budgeting time*, as well as dollars. You will have to fit your needs within the time allowed. Don't decide just as we leave the restaurant that you just *have* to have another milk shake. This goes for everything. You can call home when you have free time, buy film when we're at a gift shop. *Video game parlors are off limits for the duration.* Don't be so inconsiderate as to expect the troop to wait for you.

17. **Permission forms** must be handed in before we leave. Please be sure that any medical problems we should know about are listed on the form. If you'll be taking any medicine on the trip, please let one of the troop staff know.

18. Please note that **we'll be <u>leaving</u> the church at 5:00 PM SHARP!!** on Friday the 11th - there will be a Scout group waiting for us in Delmar, so we don t want to be late. Please be there between 4:30 and 4:45 or earlier. Be aware that even if you told me you were going for sure**,** and are fully paid up, we will not wait for you on the 11th! We'll have about a three hour plus drive Friday night, and we have an appointment with our hosts between 8:00 and 8:30PM. We will not be stopping for food Friday, so eat before you leave.

19. Return time on Wednesday the 16th will be between 9:00 and 10:00 PM, if all goes as planned. We'll call ahead when we can predict an exact return time, so no-one will have to wait too long. The troop committee will set up a calling tree, so that we will only have to call one parent, and he/she will call others, etc. The

coordinator of this will be announced before we leave, so parents will know who to call.

20. **PRACTICE THE BUDDY SYSTEM**: find a buddy and keep track of him. If you can't see him at any point TELL A LEADER IMMEDIATELY! Keep in sight of your leaders at all times. Do not go into a public rest room alone, and be sure a leader knows where you've gone. Patrol leaders will be responsible for keeping track of their patrols. I will expect each patrol leader to know how many members he has with the group, and to be able to give me a count on request. This means that each of us only has to count a few people, and no one will get lost (I hope).

21. **STAY WITH THE GROUP**! On previous trips I have had problems with Scouts straying from their assigned leaders, accidentally or on purpose, especially when we broke up into smaller groups with individual leaders. DO NOT LET THIS HAPPEN THIS TRIP! It CAN be dangerous and will NOT be tolerated. If you become separated from the group:

    a) Above all, STAY CALM. We will find you.

    b) STAY WHERE YOU ARE. Do not wander around, hoping to run into the group again. We will look for you by retracing our steps, and we won't look for you where we haven't been.

    c) DON'T GO ANYWHERE WITH ANYONE. We will not send any outsider to look for you. Don't go with anyone, even if they seem to know us, or say they were sent by the troop to look for you, or even if they seem to be a security guard. Refuse politely and stay put.

    d) IN A TOTAL EMERGENCY you can dial 911 without a quarter at most (if not all) pay phones. On other phones, dial "O".

    e) Please be forewarned: I am not kidding! Any Scout deliberately or carelessly separating himself from the group will be sent home on the next available bus.

22. **MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS**. There will probably be people on the street of types you have never seen before. If you wish to talk about them, wait until we get back at night. They will probably resent being looked/stared/pointed at, laughed at or discussed as much as you would in their place. A Scout is kind.

23. Finally, remember that you *are* Scouts and act accordingly. The Scout Oath and Law is to govern your conduct. Be mentally awake and morally straight. Physical strength is optional this trip.

Yours in Scouting,