

Cell Phone Usage Policy

Santa Fe Trail Council

Boy Scouts of America

SCOPE: Cellular/mobile telephones should not be used while operating a vehicle. Using a cell phone while driving leads to an increased risk of having an accident through a lack of attention to driving. Inattention can also involve adjusting the radio, eating, smoking, daydreaming, talking to passengers, things outside the vehicle, and other distractions.

Researchers at the University of Toronto found that the risk of having a traffic accident while using a cell phone is the equivalent of driving drunk. We all agree it is dangerous to drive drunk. It is important to understand and agree that it is equally dangerous to talk on a cell phone while driving. In eleven countries and several U.S. cities it is illegal to use a cell phone while operating a vehicle. Regulation of the use of phones in vehicles has been the subject of more than one hundred bills in thirty-seven states and is growing.

COUNCIL POLICY

The following is our Council's policy on cell phone use while driving. Your compliance is requested and expected.

- Allow voice mail to handle your incoming calls and return them at your safe convenience.
- If you need to place or receive a call, pull off the road to a safe location.
- Ask a passenger to make or take the call.
- Inform regular callers about your driving schedule, and when you will be available to talk.
- Keep your hands on the wheel and your eyes and mind on the road while driving.