

National Executive Director
PO Box 70735 SW Station
Washington, DC 20024-0735



POLICY MEMORANDUM 2013-01
Date: 15 January, 2013

Subject: Use of Swords by Young Marines

1. **Background.** In the past the Young Marines has not authorized or made any policy regarding use of swords in Young Marine functions, events, or training. With incidents and unit websites/Facebook 'revelations' creating questions and concerns the Young Marines has implemented the following policy.
 2. **Policy.** Young Marines are NOT PERMITTED to use Marine Corps (or any other branch of service or type) sword for any purpose! Should your unit or higher headquarters element obtain a unit or command level sword, it may be displayed for ceremonial purposes only. U.S. Marine Corps swords (Mameluke [officer] & NCO [enlisted]) are not to be used at any time for any reason; but especially an EARNED sword by a Marine or any other service. Marine Corps officers and enlisted non-commissioned officers are authorized and have earned the privilege to carry the oldest weapon in the inventory of the Corps. That is exactly what it is - an earned privilege and a weapon! Swords are made and issued by height standards of individuals for safety reasons.
 3. **Exception:** Young Marine Birthday Ball - a sword may be used to cut the birthday cake. Sword should be out of its scabbard, lying next to the cake, and used by a Advanced or Senior YM leader (16 or older) or an adult to cut the cake if the UC so desires. Afterwards, it is expected that the sword blade be immediately cleaned, placed in its scabbard, and put out of reach and away from YMs and others to preclude any incidents.
1. **Miscellaneous.** DO THE RIGHT THING
 1. **Effective Date.** This policy is effective immediately.

/s/ Signed copy on file with National Headquarters
Michael B. Kessler
National Executive
Director