

# Sample Camper Behavior Policies

## MISSION STATEMENT

Camp seeks to provide safe, fun, creative and challenging camping opportunities that foster individual and family growth in areas of self-worth, responsibility, self-expression, independence, leadership, environmental awareness, and Christian values. Camp provides a sustained group living experience bringing together persons of diverse backgrounds in a natural outdoor environment under the supervision and guidance of trained leaders.

## Bullying

Bullying is when one or more people exclude, tease, taunt, gossip, hit, kick, or put down another person with the intent to hurt another. Bullying happens when a person or group of people want to have power over another and use their power to get their way, at the expense of someone else. Bullying can also happen through cyberspace; through the use of emails, text messaging, instant messaging, weblogs, person Web sites and other less direct methods. This type of bullying can also lead to persons being hurt during or between the camp seasons and be especially hurtful when persons are targeted with meanness and exclusion. Bullying is inexcusable at Camp. Each camper is expected to treat all other campers with respect, and to help each other achieve the best possible experience. If a camper has difficulty meeting this expectation, parents may be called upon to assist. We work together as a team to ensure that campers gain self-confidence, make new friends, and go home with great camp memories. Unfortunately, people who are bullied may not have the same potential to get the most out of their camp experience. Our leadership addresses all incidents of bullying seriously and trains staff to promote communication with their campers so both staff and campers will be comfortable alerting us to any problems during their camp experience. We can't manage an incident if we don't know about it. Every person has the right to expect to have the best possible experience at camp, and by working together as a team to identify and manage bullying, we can help ensure that all campers and staff have a great summer at Camp.

## Camper Attire

Campers' clothing should reflect good taste and concern for the values and standards of other campers. Inappropriate dress includes but is not limited to the following: Hats worn backwards or to the side, short shorts, clothing promoting alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products, provocative 2 piece swimsuits or clothing, and bare midriffs. Campers may be asked to change if the director deems attire to be inappropriate.

## Chronic Health Conditions

Any camper with a chronic health condition must have that condition documented by a licensed physician on the health history form provided by the camp. On check-in day, the camper and parent/guardian meet with Camp's health officer or camp director to review information about any chronic health condition. All medication must be given to the health officer in its original container with physician's instructions for dosage on the label. Counselors will be notified of the camper's health condition by the health officer or camp director. All medical information shall be kept confidential and stored in the camper's health file at the health center.

## Civil Disobedience or Camper Disruption

Any camper conduct, either individually or in a group, that is intentionally disruptive to or designed to be disruptive to the normal operation of the camp program may result in being sent home early from camp. Such conduct includes but is not limited to the following: destruction of camp property, or advocating such disruption or destruction, refusing to cooperate with camp staff attempting to maintain or restore order in the cabin/group, and/or program activity, consistently starting fights or arguments in cabin/group and/or harming another camper. These campers are disciplined and parents are contacted by the Camp Director.

### **Corporal Punishment**

Camp DOES NOT subscribe to corporal punishment as a means to discipline campers.

### **Dangerous Weapons**

Items designed to cause bodily harm or deemed potentially harmful, are confiscated. The parents/guardians are contacted. Bringing such items to camp may result in campers being sent home early from camp. All types of knives and dangerous items MUST be kept off the camp property. Once an item is confiscated by the Camp Director, it is not returned to the camper but to the parent/guardian on check-out day.

### **Deceitful Activity**

Any camper involved in lying or attempting to deceive a camp staff person will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **Diversity**

We are a community made up of a diverse population. Camp hosts several different types of camps in the summer and traditional summer resident camp and day camp. Our staff team is also diverse in that we hire many international staff from all over the world and American staff from all over the United States. The camper population is also comprised of a diverse population consisting of campers from all types of race, faiths, socioeconomic background, family structures, inner city, suburbs, etc. The unique quality about Camp is that we all come together as ONE community and have a fun, safe time together. It's important for everyone to feel important and have a positive camping experience.

### **Drinking and Drugs**

Zero Tolerance Policy = camper automatically sent home. Alcohol and drugs absolutely have no place at camp! Positively no alcohol, drugs or controlled substances are to be carried onto the camp property; this includes cigarettes or any other tobacco product. Any camper in possession of alcohol, drugs, or a controlled substance is sent home immediately. In the event alcohol, drugs or a controlled substance is found, it is confiscated and the camper's parent/guardian is contacted by the Camp Director to pick up their camper immediately, no matter the time of day or night.

### **Falsely Reported Emergency Calls and Fire Alarms**

Any camper setting off a fire alarm, fire extinguisher, tampering with smoke detector or using the phone to falsely report an emergency to 911 will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **Fighting**

Camp does not tolerate campers who harm other campers; whether it is physical or verbal fighting, including degrading, demeaning, threatening other campers or staff, or making fun of others. Any camper involved in fighting is subject to discipline and may be sent home. The parent/guardian is contacted by the Camp Director.

### **Gambling**

No games of chance may be played on the camp property or at any off-site camp function. Playing cards for money or exchange of personal items, dice playing, or any other form of gambling is not allowed at camp. Campers who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action.

## **Gangs**

Campers must refrain from any gang related activity while at camp. No camper shall:

1. Wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell clothing, jewelry, emblems, badges, symbols, signs, or other things which are evidence of membership or affiliation with a gang.
2. Commit any act or omission, or use any speech, either verbal or non-verbal (gestures, handshakes, etc.) showing membership or affiliation in a gang. Any camper who violates this policy is subject to disciplinary action and parent/guardian is contacted.

## **Gum Chewing**

Gum chewing contributes to higher maintenance costs, creates unsanitary conditions, and has a negative affect on camp decorum, other people's clothes, shoes, and hair. For these reasons, gum chewing at camp is not allowed at any time.

## **Internet Social Networking & Blogging Policy**

In general, Camp views social networking sites (e.g., MySpace), personal Web sites, and Weblogs positively and respects the right of campers to use them as a medium of self-expression. If a camper chooses to identify himself or herself as a camper at our camp on such Internet venues, some readers of such Web sites or blogs may view the camper as a representative or spokesperson of the camp. In light of this possibility, Camp requires, as a condition of participation in the camp, that campers observe the following guidelines when referring to the camp, its programs or activities, its campers, and/or staff, in a blog or on a Web site.

1. Campers must be respectful in all communications and blogs related to or referencing the camp, its staff, and other campers.
2. Campers must not use obscenities, profanity, or vulgar language.
3. Campers must not use blogs or personal Web sites to harass, bully, or intimidate other campers or staff. Behaviors that constitute harassment and bullying include, but are not limited to, comments that are derogatory with respect to race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, color, or disability; sexually suggestive, humiliating, or demeaning comments; and threats to stalk, haze, or physically injure another person.
4. Campers must not use blogs or personal Web sites to disparage the camp, other campers, or staff.
5. Campers must not use blogs or personal Web sites to discuss engaging in conduct that is prohibited by Camp's policies, including, but not limited to, the use of alcohol and drugs, sexual behavior, sexual harassment, and bullying.

Any camper found to be in violation of any portion of this Social Networking and Blogging Policy will be subject to immediate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from Camp.

## **Intimidation**

Any camper found to be harassing, making fun of, or intimidating another camper is subject to disciplinary actions, and may be sent home.

## **Laser Pens/Pointers**

The use of laser pens/pointers by campers is not permitted. If a camper brings a laser pen/pointer, it is confiscated and kept in a locked drawer in the Camp Director's office until the last day of camp.

### **Lost and Found**

Please be sure to mark all clothing with his/her full name when sending your campers to camp. Please do not use your camper's initials; mark all clothing with your camper's full name. All lost and found at camp is put in the lost and found box located in the main lodge outside the Camp Director's office. At the end of each session, campers and parents are given an opportunity to claim lost and found items. Parents can claim lost and found items up to two weeks after their session. Lost and found items not claimed and/or without names are given to the Salvation Army or other charitable organizations.

### **Obscenity**

Obscene, profane or vulgar language; written, oral, or expressed by symbols is not tolerated. Being respectful to staff and other campers is important and expected. Any camper who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **Paging Devices and Cellular Phones**

Paging devices and cell phones have no place at camp. Campers are too busy with camp programs and activities. Please do not send these items to camp. If parents/guardians need to contact their camper during the session, they are asked to call the camp office and talk to the Camp Director.

### **Pornography**

The viewing or possession of pornography or other adult-oriented material, in all forms, is not permitted at Camp.

### **Search and Seizure**

Camp reserves the right to search a staff or camper's property, either by themselves or with the aid of law enforcement officials, if the camp staff deems the search is necessary to maintain the integrity of the camp's environment and/or the protection of the other staff or campers. These searches may or may not include the use of specially trained dogs.

### **Social Conduct**

At camp, camper conduct should reflect concern for others. Camp is the wrong place for any type of public display of affection. Intimacy and physical contact is treated as a disciplinary matter.

### **Stealing**

Stealing is a violation of law. A camper who becomes involved in a theft of camp property, another camper's belongings, or a staff person's belongings is subject to disciplinary action. Stealing may result in a camper being sent home early from camp. The Camp Director contacts parents/guardian immediately.

### **Values-Based Camp**

Camp seeks to provide safe, fun, creative and challenging camping opportunities that foster individual and family growth in areas of self-worth, responsibility, self-expression, independence, leadership, environmental awareness and values. Our mission and core values are the foundation for all that we do here at Camp. Both govern our day to day life and are the basis for all rules and requirements established at camp. It is important that all campers and staff strive to teach, practice, and model the values Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility each day.

## **Vandalism**

Campers involved in vandalism or malicious mischief either against the camp property or against another camper or staff are disciplined immediately. Vandalism includes any kind of graffiti on camp walls, beds, bathroom stalls, etc. The parent/guardian is contacted immediately. Violation of this policy may result in the camper being sent home early from camp. Payment to repair any damage accrued as a result of the vandalism is the responsibility of the camper's parent/guardian.

## **Visitors**

We ask that parents visit only during the designated times on check-in or check-out days. While Camp is an open environment, well-meaning visits disrupt camp programs.

## **Behavior Management Policy**

We believe that every child has the right to experience camp and all it has to offer. We believe in setting limits and explaining the boundaries for all participants. When these boundaries are tested, we use specific procedures to help the camper to continue his/her experience at camp. All of our staff receives significant training in these procedures. On the first day of camp our staff will go over the cabin expectations and ground rules of camp life. Campers have the opportunity to ask questions about policies and rules, so that everyone is clear about expectations.

Procedures We Follow:

1. The camper's Counselor will speak with the camper and check whether the camper understands why the behavior is unacceptable and knows what the consequences are. The Counselor will restate the desired behavior, with clear consequences given for not following the desired behavior. The removal of a camper from a problem situation in a time out may be a consequence in this first stage. Removal gives the camper time to calm down, reflect on his/her actions and the staff a chance to discuss with the camper what happened.
2. If the behavior is repeated, the Counselor will let the camper know that this is still unacceptable and will then involve the Program Director and/or Camp Director. At this stage, Camp will contact the parent or guardian of the camper to make them aware of the situation and to ask for cooperation and insight.
3. If the behavior persists, the Camp Director will determine if the camper should remain at camp or be sent home. Parents will need to make transportation arrangements, and there are no refunds for campers sent home for behavioral reasons.
4. There are some actions that may warrant immediate removal from camp. These actions include, but are not limited to; smoking or using tobacco products, using alcohol or illegal drugs, stealing, or endangering their own safety or the safety of staff or campers.

This discipline policy attempts to let campers know that while they are cared for, certain behaviors are not acceptable in our camp setting. This policy also involves the parents before the problems escalate, and invites them to be a part of the solution.

## **Severe Behavior**

While Camp strives to be all-inclusive campers with chemical dependency, severe emotional disturbances or violent behavior may not be able to participate effectively. We can refer you to facilities and camps that are equipped to handle these special needs. If your child has severe behavior problems or is unable to live a chemical-free life during their camp stay, we ask that you talk with the Camp Director to assess how Camp may serve you and your child best.

This form is to be signed and returned to Camp's office. Your signature will affirm that you have read the Resident Camp Parent/Camper Handbook, Camper Policies and Character Counts Contract and fully understand all of the Resident Camp policies stated therein.

I have read and discussed Camp's resident camp behavior policy with my camper. We both agree to adhere to the policies and understand that the refund policy states: no refunds for campers going home early for disciplinary action or homesickness.

*Please keep the information packet handy for reference regarding the policies and procedures of the camp program.*

I DO HEREBY AFFIRM THAT \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_ have read the parent's packet.

CAMPER'S NAME PARENT /GUARDIAN NAME

We have read the resident camp Parent/Camper Handbook and fully understand the policies stated therein. I have read and discussed the camp behavior policy with my camper. We both agree to adhere to the policies and understand that the refund policy states: no refunds for campers going home early for disciplinary action or homesickness.

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PLEASE PRINT NAME OF CHILD DATE

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CAMPER'S SIGNATURE

Date

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PRINT NAME OF PARENT / GUARDIAN DATE

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SIGNATURE NAME OF PARENT / GUARDIAN

Date