

# Youth Summer Camp Behavior Guidelines

At Youth Summer Camp (YSC), our standard of care is that every child feels safe and secure during their camp experience. We strive to build a child's self-esteem, character, and social skills by engaging them in fun, structured games and activities while also setting reasonable, natural boundaries and consequences. In addition to encouraging self-discipline, we also require respect of others.

To deal with behavioral issues, we use all tools available within the camp setting, but behavioral issues also require support and reinforcement of camp rules at home.

## Behavior Guidelines

We expect campers to always act respectfully when they are at camp and to behave in a kind, responsible way.

Campers should:

- Arrive at camp ready to listen, participate, and have fun.
- Take responsibility for their actions.
- Respect themselves, each other, camp equipment, and the environment.
- Understand that honesty will be the basis for all relationships and interactions.
- Talk to a counselor or any camp staff member if they are uncomfortable with any experiences or need assistance while at camp.

## Behaviors that are not accepted at YSC

Bullying, harassment, and intimidation are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

- Refusing to follow behavior guidelines or camp rules.
- Using profanity, vulgarity, or obscenity
- Stealing or damaging property (personal or camp property)
- Refusal to participate in activities, cooperate with staff or comply with requests.
- Disrupting a program
- Continued cell phone use after being asked to keep phones put away.
- Leaving a program without permission
- Endangering the health and safety of children or staff
- Use of illicit drugs, alcohol or tobacco, or sexual conduct of any kind
- Teasing, making fun of, or bullying other campers or staff
- Physical aggression

## YSC Behavior Change and/or Disciplinary Process

- First Issue- Lead Counselors and camper will work together to identify the behavior issue and determine appropriate consequences for misbehavior.
- Second Issue- Counselors will connect with the primary caregiver to discuss behavior issues and how to best support and reinforce camp rules at camp and home.
- Third Issue- Camp Directors will be notified of continued behavior issues and removal from camp programs for a 'behavior reflection period' will result.
- Fourth Issue- The primary caregiver will be called and given an additional opportunity to help modify the child's behavior one last time and notified that they should prepare to have their child removed from camp should another issue arise.
- Fifth Issue- The primary caregiver is informed that the camper needs to be picked up from camp. We understand picking up a child early is a hardship, but a fifth issue means immediate pickup is required and is not optional.
- Any offense resulting in physical harm to another camper or staff member is grounds for immediate removal from the YSC.
- Removal From Camp
  - Some children have needs that are beyond the scope of YSC staff training and environmental structure. If we find that we are not able to properly meet a camper's needs, or if we determine that YSC is not the best environment for a camper, we may choose to remove them from camp.

While this decision could be based on the camper exhibiting multiple, unchanged behavioral issues, it could also be because a child is not engaging well with their peers, is not ready to be away from their primary caregiver for the entire day, has developmental needs that our staff is not equipped to meet, is unable to adapt to our environment, or any other number of non-behavioral related issues that we have seen arise over the years.

We do not take removing a child from camp lightly and only do so when we feel it is in the child's best interest, or necessary for the safety or operation of the camp. Should a camper be removed from camp, we will discuss with the primary caregiver whether they will be invited to re-enroll in future years.

A removal from camp does not result in a refund.

