



Explanation of Camp White Meadow Cell Phone Policy



Hello Parents,

As you know, your child's enjoyment of camp is very important to us. However, the children's safety is our number one concern. We wanted to take a moment to share our cellular phone policy with you. It is our belief that a restriction on the use of cell phones helps our days at camp to run as smoothly as possible.

We understand the importance of your children being able to get in contact with you in case of an emergency, and the importance of you being able to contact your children in such a case, therefore we allow cell phones to be carried at camp. However, the possession of phones frequently leads to various issues throughout the camp day.

Our official stance on the issue is that campers may have cellular phones with them, but are to ask a staff member before using them. Additionally, cell phones are not to be used to take pictures and/or video of other campers. If this policy is not followed, we retain the right to confiscate the phone until the end of the camp day, when it will be returned.

Our reasoning for this policy follows:

Many issues can be handled by a supervisor or counselor, as opposed to immediately contacting a parent or guardian. We are here to tend to the needs of your children throughout the day, and easy access to the use of cell phones often keeps the camp staff out of the loop and/or inhibits us from doing our jobs.

Unfortunately, cell phones often cause listening problems. Although this may not be the case for every child, we believe that restricting the use of cell phones will be beneficial. We want to be sure that campers are listening to and following all directions. At times, listening to the phone, texting, or playing games draws a child's attention away from the task at hand.

The use of digital forms of communication can contribute to both bullying and inappropriate exchanges, both verbal and visual, at camp. Due to the more impersonal nature that options such as text messaging and picture messaging provide, campers are often less apprehensive about saying hurtful or inappropriate things to other campers with the use of their cell phones.

Finally, we want to avoid situations with people outside of our camp. For example, we would like to eliminate a situation where campers may feel compelled to share their cellular information with strangers. We would also like to limit campers from arranging individuals outside of camp to meet them at certain places or times during the camp day, for safety reasons.

We have a strong commitment to making sure you have any information you may need regarding your child and would never prohibit them from contacting you. It is our goal to make this summer the best experience for your child as possible. We are confident that the program we have designed will provide your child with an optimal summer experience at Camp White Meadow.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you find this explanation relieves any concern.

Take care,

Stacy Wahlstrom, Camp Director