

Camp Policy for Campers and the Internet

We have asked your parents to go over some policies we have developed about the Internet and other issues that are important so that everyone has the best experience at camp as possible.

- 1) First, our camp views social networking sites and other Internet communication as a positive way for you to keep in touch with your friends and express yourself. As a camper at our camp you have the right to exchange e-mails, profile names, gamer tags, IM's, etc with other campers and invite other campers to be on your "friends" list in any way that you and your parents see fit.
- 2) When it comes to exchanging contact with our staff or your counselors, however, *your parents must give us written permission for you to do that. This includes giving or getting an e-mail or IM address, cell phone number, social networking profile, gamer tag, weblog or any other Internet contact.* It's not that we don't think your relationships with your counselors are important. They are! It's just that, once they leave camp, we can't take responsibility for what happens between you and them—only your parents can.
- 3) About e-mails, IMs and comments you might make to other campers on their social networking site (like TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, snapchat, etc), we ask you:
 - a) to keep them positive and respectful of staff and campers alike;
 - b) not to use obscenities, vulgar or sexual language;
 - c) not to say mean or threatening things to or about other campers or staff;
 - d) not to pose as another camper online and use that false screen name, blog or website to spread false information about anyone or say damaging, disparaging or threatening things about anyone;
 - e) not to use social media, a website, blog, or e-mail to talk about things that are against camp policy, like drugs or alcohol or bullying or sexual things.
- 4) Most Internet communication is positive, and that's great! In the rare case where there might be any negative messages to other campers or staff, our policy is to call the parents of campers who send those messages and share with them the content.
- 5) It is our policy to use whatever legal means available, including contacting the police and the FBI, to track the source of any offending or threatening Internet communication if the source is not obvious.
- 6) Any camper who violates any of our policies regarding the Internet or other communication might have to leave camp, might not be able to come back to camp and may even have to answer to the police or other law enforcement authorities.
- 7) We want you to be safe on the Internet. ***If you receive a threatening e-mail, IM or message on your social media page or personal website—one that is mocking, uses vulgar or harassing language—here is what you should do:***
 - a) do not respond to the message or retaliate, because it might encourage the sender or get you into trouble;
 - b) if possible, screenshot the message or make a record on your hard drive;
 - c) print out a copy of the message, then close it but ***do not delete it;***
 - d) tell your parents about it and have them notify the local police or, if necessary, contact your Internet service provider;
 - e) if you suspect that the sender is from camp, call us immediately;
 - f) you or your parents can also contact Pedowatch (www.pedowatch.com) or the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (www.nemec.org).

We want camp to be as fun, safe and wonderful as it can be. Our policies are designed so that whatever way people from camp communicate with one another, it happens in a way that is positive and makes everyone feel safe.