



Cell Phone Policy Change

Dear Parents and Campers,

In the summer of 2015 we launched an experiment that would allow High School campers to bring their smartphones and tablets to camp. After each summer we evaluated the impacts both positive and negative. After evaluating the summer of 2018 our Program Committee recommended that we no longer allow cell phones at High School summer camp, winter camp, and other teen events for these reasons.

1. **Security:** We have had multiple occurrences of friends and family invited by a camper to come onsite without approval and knowledge of the leadership. Our number one priority is the safety and wellbeing of your camper while they are in our care.
2. **Distraction:** Survey responses from not only faculty but other campers have indicated that phones are a huge distraction throughout the week; from the use of phones at inappropriate times to inappropriate photos and messages. Our desire is to help eliminate distractions so campers can focus on their relationship with Christ as well as the relationships with others at camp.
3. **Unplug:** Camp is one of the few places that campers can truly unplug from their devices. There is a growing need not only for campers but parents as well to take a break from their devices as more and more studies reveal how dependent and addicted we are to our mobile devices.

Please help us as we try to make the camp experience even better as campers unplug from the distractions of the world and focus on God. **We are asking that campers leave their mobile devices at home.** If they are driving to camp and you would like them to have their phone we ask they turn them in when they arrive at check in.

In Christ,
Matt Love
Executive Director