

MERRIWOOD CHRISTIAN CAMP'S
PHYSICAL PRIVACY & SEXUALITY POLICY

I. PURPOSE

In light of MERRIWOOD CHRISTIAN CAMP'S statement of faith, [statement on marriage and sexuality], our camper code of conduct, rules and regulations, and staff manual, and in recognition of personal physical privacy rights and the need to ensure individual safety and maintain school discipline, this policy is enacted to advise members of the MERRIWOOD CHRISTIAN CAMP community of their duties with regard to use of restrooms, bathhouse, showers, and any other camp facilities where individuals may be undressed in the presence of others.

II. DEFINITIONS

“Sex” means the biological condition of being male or female as determined at birth.

“Member of the Merriwood Christian Camp community” means any Merriwood Christian Camp employee, volunteer, camper, retreat guest, parent, or visitor.

III. SINCERELY-HELD RELIGIOUS BELIEF ON SEXUALITY

Merriwood Christian Camp's sincerely-held religious belief is that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as either male or female, and that these two distinct, complementary sexes together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27). Rejection of one's sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. (MCC's full Marriage and Sexuality Statement can be viewed on our website.)

IV. POLICY

Notwithstanding any other policy, Merriwood Christian Camp's restrooms, bathhouse and showers designated for one sex shall only be used by members of that sex.

In any other camp facilities or settings where members of the camp community may be undressed in the presence of others, Merriwood Christian Camp shall provide separate, private areas designated for use by members of the camp community based on their sex.

Merriwood Christian Camp recognizes there may be instances where members of the camp community experience disparity between their sex and their feelings about their sex. This disparity can motivate them to behave in ways contrary to God's Word and His plan for their lives. Merriwood Christian Camp encourages members of the camp community who are struggling with their sexual identity to seek help from their pastor and other trained professionals who might best assist them in clarifying and defining their sexual identity in accordance with God's Word.

Merriwood Christian Camp will at all times interact with members of the camp community according to their sex. A member of the camp community who wishes to express a gender other than his or her sex is understood to be rejecting the truth and the image of God within that

person. Biblical Christianity requires the body of Christ to compassionately dwell in the truth and assist those we love in doing the same (Eph. 4:15).

A member of the camp community who openly and unrepentantly rejects their sex, either in or out of camp, is rejecting the image of God within that person – behavior that dishonors the Holy Trinity and the Word of God. Such behavior constitutes a person’s failure to adhere to their commitment to abide by the behavioral standards established by Merriwood Christian Camp which is cause for terminating their privilege of attendance in the camp community as retreat guest, camper, volunteer, or summer team member.

To preserve the function and integrity of Merriwood Christian Camp and to provide a biblical role model to members of the camp community and the community-at-large, it is imperative that all members of the camp community agree to abide by this policy

V. POSTING

Copies of this policy shall be provided to all camp employees, volunteers, campers, and retreat guests. This policy will be available to view on our website, in the retreat contract packet, in the camper registration process, and in the summer team application process, and in our summer staff manual.