



CAMPER CELL PHONE AND PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

Day Camp Sunshine has a "no cell phone and portable electronic devices" policy at camp. Aside from the fact that these items are expensive and can get lost or stolen and that the physical camp environment is not kind to such items, there are two fundamental reasons why we do not want campers to have cell phones at camp.

1. Trust. When children come to camp they — and you — are making a leap of faith, transferring their primary care from you as their parents to us and their counselors. This is one of the growth-producing, yet challenging aspects of camp. Sometimes kids bring their phones just so they can reach out to their parents if they face a challenge during the day. As children learn to trust other caring adults, they grow and learn, little by little, to solve some of their own challenges. We believe this growing independence is one of the greatest benefits of camp. It is one important way your children learn to become resilient. We agree to tell you if your child is experiencing a challenge in their adjustment to camp. You can help by talking with your child before they leave for camp and telling them that there is always someone they can reach out to, whether it is their counselor or someone on the Leadership Team (including the Health Director). We are all here to help, but if you don't trust us, they certainly won't.
2. Experience. We believe that being at camp is an opportunity for children to experience a world beyond home, take a break from electronics, and gives them a chance to participate in real life activities other than virtual networking and electronic games. It moves them out of their comfort zone and provides a wide range of opportunities to experience life in a different way, develop skills they didn't have before, and build strong, meaningful friendships beyond a few "likes on their wall" .

We would like to ask for your cooperation in enforcing the "no cell phone and portable electronic devices" policy. We would like our campers to have a great time and bring the most out of their camp experience. If a camper violates this policy, we will take his or her device away, and will give it back to the parent at pick-up time.