



LOCATION 3575 VALLEY ROAD BASKING RIDGE, NJ 07920
MAILING ADDRESS PO BOX 204 LIBERTY CORNER, NJ 07938
WWW.DAYCAMPSSUNSHINE.ORG 908.647.9624 CAMP@DEACONRY.ORG

DCS STAFF & CAMPER CONTACT OUTSIDE OF CAMP – 2016 POLICY

Our commitment to you as parents is that we will only put your children in the company of the most trustworthy and appropriate young adults and adults we can hire – staff, counselors and CITs who are well suited to the task of caring for campers. The effort we put into carefully and thoroughly screening and selecting our staff is a key part of this commitment.

We also recognize that campers and counselors/CITs develop close, trusting relationships with one another at camp and that these relationships are healthy, wholesome and beneficial to campers and staff alike. We are aware that many campers will naturally want to keep in touch with their favorite staff members after camp.

Our hiring of these staff members does not imply our recommendation of them for other non-camp related roles such as babysitter, nanny, child companion, etc. We have not vetted them for those purposes and the limit of our recommendation is to the camp environment. Our staff works with your child in the context of a visible, well scrutinized community that has many built-in checks and balances. Counselors & CITs are supervised by senior staff and are guided by clear, firm policies regarding behavior. Their actions are also visible to a community full of co-workers and campers.

In general we discourage our staff from having contact with your children after camp *since we cannot supervise it*. This guidance is specifically addressed in our staff handbook and training. It is imperative that parents understand that we hire our staff *for the camp season*. *We do not take responsibility for their behavior off-season*. Therefore -

It is the stated guideline of DCS that staff members may not engage in communication with campers outside of camp during the camp season and that they should not engage in communication after camp has come to a close for the summer.



LOCATION 3575 VALLEY ROAD BASKING RIDGE, NJ 07920
MAILING ADDRESS PO BOX 204 LIBERTY CORNER, NJ 07938
WWW.DAYCAMPSUNSHINE.ORG 908.647.9624 CAMP@DEACONRY.ORG

Moreover –

- Our office will not release any camper or family' s contact information including email, phone number or address to the staff that we hire for the summer. Our year round staff are the only employees with access to the database containing this information.
- DCS Staff is not permitted to contact campers outside of camp *during* the camp season. Staff is strongly advised not to contact campers outside of camp *after* the camp season has closed.

In our digital and connected world, it is simply a matter of a few clicks for campers to “find” counselors in online spaces. Therefore, our recommendation is simply for you as

parents to be aware of your child' s online activities and supervise them as you would any other aspect of their life in your home.

Likewise, if you, as a parent or legal guardian, wish your child to exchange such information with a camp staff member, that is, of course, your right. However, by doing so, *you accept full responsibility for overseeing whatever contact occurs as a result.*

We advise our staff that if they choose to respond to a request from a camper to communicate outside of camp, that they should obtain express, written, signed permission from that camper' s parent or guardian and that the staff member – not DCS – is responsible for maintaining a record of such permission.

We take seriously the responsibility of creating a safe, fun environment for your child and our staff. If you have any questions or concerns, please don' t hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Todd Haraldsen
DCS Director

Chris Hendrickson
DCS Director