



## DAY CAMP SUNSHINE DISCIPLINE POLICIES

We know that everybody can have a bad day when things don't work out the way they planned. We also realize that some of our campers may be going through a challenging time in their personal life, in their family, school, etc. Many events can cause children to fail to follow camp guidelines and rules.

At Day Camp Sunshine our main goals are each of our camper's physical, emotional and spiritual well-being and development. Even if correction needs to take place, our goal is restoration and reconciliation, and to help them take a step into the right direction. We have established the following guidelines to ensure these goals throughout the summer, and we train our counselors to successfully deal with camper behavioral problems.

1. Our counselors strive to give the children **clear guidelines and boundaries to prevent problems** as much as possible. In the older groups they involve the campers in the rule-making process, so they all agree on common rules.
2. We distinguish **three main category** of discipline issues as follows: minor misbehavior, major misbehavior, and repeated misbehavior.
3. **Minor** misbehavior issues (for example not listening to an instruction) are taken care of by our camper's counselors. **Repeated misbehavior and major issues** (such as fist fights or cursing) are first taken to the managers, and if necessary, to the Camp Director.
4. Before our counselors and managers exercise any kind of discipline, they **collect every possible information** about the situation, as well as about the child's motives and intention behind his or her acts.
5. The number one goal is to **make the child understand** what he or she did wrong, and why it was wrong, then **show them the right way** to do things. Therefore at first we never give out punishment, rather we discuss the situation with the child, trying to win their cooperation in the future, and give them help if they need, to stay in line with our guidelines.
6. In case of repeated misbehavior, there are multiple options counselors and campers can choose from in terms of consequences. Counselors are allowed to **take away minutes of pool time or free time**. In more serious cases, after discussing it with a manager, they may take away the **Sweet Shoppe privilege** for the week.
7. Last year we have established a **Star System** for "habitual offenders" which proved to help campers with repeated behavioral problems to improve greatly. These kids are offered a Day Camp Sunshine Passport, with ten stars in it. From this point on, if they repeat the same mistakes, a certain number of stars is taken away. In order to enjoy privileges such as Sweet Shoppe, pool parties and trips, they need to have a minimum amount of stars. If they lose too many, they are not able to participate in these special programs. However, if their counselors see that they are trying very hard, they can win

back stars. This system helps the kids to see where they are at, and they have a visible follow-up system rather than just verbal warnings from counselors. Often it was enough to just remind these campers to their passports, and they immediately corrected themselves.

8. **For minor issues we do not contact the parents.** We don't think they need to be bothered with every little detail of camp life. When a camper learns from his or her mistake, restoration and reconciliation is accomplished, no need to have further negative consequences or discussion on the past. However, **if we decide to enroll someone in the Star System, the parents will be notified.** In case of major incidents such as fist fights, we will also get in touch with them.
9. We take **bullying** very seriously. If we find out that such thing is going on, we involve parents of all parties from the beginning and try to solve the situation as soon as possible.
10. In extreme cases, when a behavioral problem could not be solved in other ways, we may suspend or terminate campers who do not show any sign of change in their behavior. (In such cases we do not give any refund.)