

Bear Creek Camp

At Bear Creek Camp the safety and well-being of our campers is of the utmost importance. Because of this we have established the following behavior policies which are in place to create a clear expectation between Bear Creek Camp and our campers. **Please read these policies with your camper, print, sign and bring with you to camp when you check in.**

Discipline Procedures

When a camper does not follow the behavior guidelines, we will take the following action steps as behavior problems progress.

1. Staff will redirect the camper to more appropriate behavior.
2. If inappropriate behavior continues, the camper will be reminded of behavior guidelines and camp rules, and the camper will be asked to decide on action steps to correct his/her behavior.
3. If a child's behavior still does not meet expectations and is affecting the experience of other campers, he/she will be referred to members of the camp program staff.
4. If inappropriate behavior continues, as a final action step the camper may be dismissed from camp.

Some Examples of unacceptable behavior:

- Refusing to follow behavior guidelines or camp rules
- Using profanity, vulgarity or obscenity.
- Stealing or damaging property (personal or camp property)
- Refusal to participate in activities or cooperate with staff
- Disrupting a program
- Leaving a program without permission
- Endangering the health and safety of children and/or staff
- Fighting of any kind
- Use of illicit drugs, alcohol or tobacco or sexual conduct of any kind. **See below*
- Teasing, making fun or bullying of other campers or staff. **See below*
- Possession of any type of weapon or the threat of possession of any type of weapon. **See below*

Camper fees are non-refundable if a camper is sent home for disciplinary reasons.

Bullying

Bullying is defined by bullying expert Dan Olweus as:

A person is being bullied when he/she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other persons. Negative action is when a person intentionally inflicts injury or discomfort upon another person, through physical contact, through words or in other ways. Note that bullying is both overt and covert behaviors.

While campers are at Bear Creek camp the expectation is that they are participating and living within a Christian Community. Within a Christian community, we accept all individuals as they are and how they come to live at camp.

- With that understanding, Bullying, as stated above, is not tolerated. All campers will agree to adhere to the policy of no bullying.

- If a camper feels they are being bullied, they will be able to discuss this with their counselor in private. Their counselor will involve someone from the program staff to be engaged in the concern and to find out what has taken place.
- Program Staff will then meet with the child who has exhibited the bullying behavior.
- After these meetings, phone calls home will be made. At that time, it will be determined if the child who has bullied will be sent home.
- Physical violence of any kind toward another camper or staff member will result in immediate dismissal from the camp program.

Bear Creek Camp Drug and Alcohol Policy

When a camper comes to camp ALL medication (over the counter or prescribed) will be checked in with the Camp medical staff. Campers may not keep ANY medication with them during the camp week. Medications for specific allergic reactions will be dealt with on a case by case basis with the Camp medical staff & parents.

If a camper is found with any kind of medication or illegal substance, they will be taken to the Executive Director or Program Director immediately. They will be checked out by the nurse to assure physical safety. This could include a visit to the local Emergency Room. Once physical safety is established, the camper’s parents/care givers will be called and the camper will be asked to go home.

Possession of any type of weapon/threat of possession of any type of weapon

Any camper in possession of ANY weapon, or, threatening others with the use of ANY weapon (whether or not the weapon exists) will result in the camper’s parents/guardians being contacted and the camper being dismissed from the camp. Threats of the use of weapons will be taken seriously and the PA State Police may be called to assess the situation.

Bear Creek Camp Behavioral Health Policy

Bear Creek Camp respects the confidentiality of any individual’s mental and/or behavioral health diagnosis and treatment. With this in mind, it is helpful for a parent/caretaker to indicate if their child is presently being treated for a mental or behavioral health diagnosis and how the camp staff can support the camper while in the camp’s custody.

When a camper comes to camp during the summer, the camp has to ensure the safety of all campers. If a camper exhibits behaviors that can put themselves or others in danger, the behavior will be reported to the Exec. Director and/or Program Director immediately. At that time, the camper’s family/caretaker will be called and the camper will be dismissed from the camp program.

If the camper is exhibiting behaviors that are deemed a crisis, the Director will call the County Crisis services to determine the level of intervention that needs to occur (ie. Crisis center, Emergency room, Police, etc.).

**I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE CAMPER BEHAVIOR
POLICIES OF BEAR CREEK CAMP.**

Camper

Parent