

Scioto Hills Christian Camp and Retreat Center

Summer Camper: Parent/Guardian Letter

Dear Parent of a Scioto Hills Campers,

Scioto Hills enjoys a rich history and has always taken the protection of our campers very seriously, because we diligently seek the highest standard of child care in the industry, we began implementing a new child protection plan in 2016 in an effort to further increase our child safety measures. We want every camper to have a great camp experience. It is our goal to remove anything that may distract from them having a positive, memorable experience or that would detract from the Biblical truths we desire them to learn. The program is called 360 Safe @ Scioto Hills. At the start of the week, your camper will go through a brief orientation explaining this program. But actually the 360 Safe @ Scioto Hills begins with you. Because you know your child better than anyone, we ask that you discuss our Code of Conduct with them before they arrive. Help us educate your child on what is acceptable and unacceptable behavior for staff and/or campers. This effort will not only help protect them, but our staff and other campers as well.

While we **DO NOT** discuss sexuality as part of our curriculum, it is important that they have an age appropriate discussion with you before they come. By God's grace, Scioto Hills has never experienced any situation of this nature. However, we desire to be as proactive as possible in preventing it in the future. Educating your child is empowering them to make the right decisions.

We seek to provide an atmosphere of "Christ-like" relationships at Scioto Hills and your involvement will serve to promote our efforts.

Please feel free to call Scott Bruns, our Executive Director at 740-778-3279 to discuss any information on this subject.

Please review the following pages with your camper.

Thank you,

Scott Bruns

Executive Director

360 Safe @ Scioto Hills

At the close of the first lunchtime, a camp director will review this plan with all the campers and staff. The **3** stands for 3 R's (Rules, Respond, Report) and the **6** refers to our Boundaries (summarized below) and the **0** means we will have zero tolerance for those who violate our code of conduct resulting in their dismissal from camp. The main ideas are summarized below.

Code of Conduct

Always respect the other person's physical boundaries:

Our program is not a place for physical relationships of any kind:

- No kissing
- No sharing of shower or bathroom stalls
- Everyone sleeps in his/her own bed
- No hitting, kicking, slapping or punching
- No tickling/touching of private areas (this includes slapping someone on the rear)
- No physically demeaning humor (wedgies etc.)
- No walking about the cabin without covering private areas (no exceptions)

Always use appropriate verbal communication:

- No lying
- No gossiping about other youth or staff
- No calling names of any kind (even jokingly)
- No Racial comments
- No talking about another's physical body
- No profane language or use of slang terms (homo, fag, etc.)
- No discussions of a sexual nature

While our Staff is given the same Code of Conduct above, the following are specific to them:

- No youth is to be taken off by themselves
- Do not give or receive individual gifts of a personal nature
- Do not show favoritism to a particular youth
- One-on-one counseling or private conversation is to be done in a public setting. (Seen but not necessarily heard)
- Hold other staff accountable
- Squelch all attempts to prank

Minor's rights:

1. To have privacy when in private areas (bathroom, shower, cabins)
2. To tell someone when feeling uneasy about ANY situation
3. To be treated with respect
4. To be taken seriously

Our organization Disciplinary Policy:

The ABCD Rule of Thumb!

Affection + Boundaries + Consistency = Discipline

1. Remove minor from situation
2. Communicate care, love, and concern for them
3. Define inappropriate behavior without attacking minor's character
4. Communicate lack of tolerance for behavior
5. Partner with minor in helping change behavior
6. Seek the root of the problem and provide Biblical counsel
7. Administer consequences with help of Leadership or Director
8. Spend time extending grace and forgiveness. Christ is the perfect example
9. Restore relationship

We believe that every camper is entitled to have a wonderful camp experience and this is completely possible if every camper and staff member abides by these guidelines. We will expect your full cooperation should your child be responsible for violating this code of conduct. We will also expect your mature respond should your child, unfortunately, be the brunt of inappropriate behavior. In either case, we will contact you as soon as we have adequately investigated the matter and are clear on the facts.

One Final Thought:

It is very difficult for us to correct any inappropriate behavior if we are not made aware that the behavior exists. The third R in our 360 Child Safe program is **Report**. We promise to correct inappropriate behavior or remove the violator if necessary but we can only act on this if the one being mistreated reports it to his/her counselor, the camp nurse or to one of the camp directors. Dealing with matters that took place at camp after the campers have returned to their homes is extremely difficult. We promise to act on these policies but your camper must be willing to first report it. (We understand "snitching" is not cool, especially for Jr. and Senior High students, but we provide a number of opportunities to report inappropriate behavior privately.)

Thank you for your support in this very delicate matter.