

Camper Cell Phone Policy Agreement Form

Updated April, 2024

Policy:

Campers are not allowed to bring cell phones or any other electronic devices to camp for the following reasons:

1. **Protect the devices** - Cell phones are expensive and can get lost or stolen and the physical camp environment is not kind **towards electronic devices**.
2. **Encourage camper independence** - Camp is a unique environment. We are trying to help youth develop life skills at camp including independence and self-reliance. By contacting friends and family during the week the camper does not have the opportunity to develop independence. We believe this emerging independence is one of the benefits of camp and it is one way your child can develop greater resilience.
3. **Foster camp community** - Another unique feature of camp is the opportunity to build a community within the camp environment. The use of cell phones and text features often distracts campers from the opportunity to become a part of this community.
4. **Protect camper privacy - Not all parents want pictures or information about their campers instantly shareable to the outside world. If campers have cell phones, this could unknowingly compromise the privacy of other campers and create an unsafe environment.**

We also respect and appreciate the wonderful relationship youth and families have, but if our campers are to enjoy camp fully they must be able to develop this independence **and interdependence within the camp community**. If there is an emergency or we are concerned about the youth's well-being, we will contact you immediately.

If you would like to stay in contact with your camper during the week of camp, you are encouraged to send letters via the mail or camp email, and campers are encouraged to send letters in return to maintain contact as needed and desired.

If a camper brings a cell phone to camp, it will be held in the camp office until the end of the camp session. We will not be held responsible for any damage or loss of cell phones at camp.

Agreement:

I, (camper name) _____, understand that I am not to bring a cell phone to camp.

Camper Signature - _____ Date - _____

I, (parent/guardian name) _____, have read the above cell phone policy and agree to the guidelines stated, including that the cell phone will be taken to be returned at the conclusion of the camp program if this policy is violated. I understand that if there is an emergency or concerns I may contact the camp at 410-479-2861 **or email campmardela@gmail.com or send a letter to my camper at P.O. Box 460, Denton, MD 21629.**

Parent Signature - _____ Date - _____