

## Guidelines for Camper Removal

Every camper deserves the right to participate in a safe camp environment with his or her peers. The camp environment consists of the campers, camp counselors, and the settings in which camp is held. Through experience and appropriate training, camp staff maintains safety through their interactions with campers as well as the preparation of the camp setting. Those staff members who fail to provide an exceptional level of care for campers are held accountable by the camp director and appropriate action will be taken based on the circumstances. Campers must also be held accountable for their actions that put them and other campers or camp staff in danger. Therefore, specific guidelines must be established that clearly explain what behaviors will not be tolerated at camp. Below is a list of the following behaviors that are not acceptable in camp:

### Physical Behaviors

- Hitting
- Kicking
- Biting
- Spiting
- Throwing objects
- Using objects as a weapon/authentic weapons
- Using body parts to cause harm to an individual
- Destruction of property
- Explosive and dangerous temper tantrums
- Eloping
- Feigning physical threats
- Inappropriate sexual contact
- Self-injurious behavior

### Emotional/Psychological Behaviors

- Persistent name calling and teasing
- Verbal threats of violence
- Sexual advances
- Persistent arguing with campers or staff
- Manipulative behavior intended to play on individual weaknesses or emotions

This is not an all-encompassing list of behaviors. Some behaviors that are inappropriate for camp but are not listed may occur. In this instance the staff will consult with one another to determine the behavior's effect on camp safety.

If any camper displays behaviors – such as those defined above – that put other campers or camp staff in danger, the camper's parents will be called and the camper will be removed from camp for the remainder of the day. If a camper is asked to leave for any reason, whether it's for illness or due to behavior, and is not picked up in a timely manner. That will count as a strike. The camper is allowed to return the next day camp is held.

Every camper will be held to the same three strike standard; each camper is allowed three strikes (a strike being removed from camp for the day because of dangerous or inappropriate behavior). After two strikes for dangerous or inappropriate behavior, the camper will be required to have a one on one aide to accompany him/her throughout the day. On the third strike the camper will be permanently removed from camp for the summer. The camper is welcome to return the following summer.

Sanitation is another aspect of camp safety. All campers must be toilet trained before coming to camp. If a camper is consistently having toileting accidents they compromise the health and hygiene of other campers and camp staff. Consistent accidents are defined as having three or more accidents during camp. In the instance that a camper has three or more accidents the camper will be removed from camp. The camper is welcome to return to camp as soon as they are completely toilet trained.

These guidelines are set forth to ensure that every camper has access to a safe and nurturing camp environment. The three strike rule is designed to give campers multiple chances to learn from and correct their behavior. Every camper is also invited back the next summer following a permanent removal from camp; they deserve a chance to show their growth and participate in a fun summer environment.

Additionally, in accordance with Okemos Public School's policy, if a camper becomes physically ill (i.e. vomiting) they are not permitted to return to camp until 24 hours after the incident.

#### Acceptance of Guidelines for Camper Removal

In order to participate in summer camp, a parent or guardian of each camper must accept the conditions of the Guidelines for Camper Removal by filling out the information below:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_,  
agree to the Guidelines for Camper Removal.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_