



## YMCA Camping Services CAMPER BEHAVIOR & EXPECTATION AGREEMENT

YMCA Camping Services adheres to the highest safety standards and regulations set by the American Camp Association, State of Michigan licensing and YMCA code of conduct policies. Camps Nissokone and Ohiyesa follows the mission of the YMCA, "To put Judea-Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all." As well as, apply the four core values of: Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility to all programs and activities presented to the campers and staff. Our goal at both camps is to provide positive growth for all campers while in a safe, healthy, nurturing environment. To create and maintain such an environment will require the participation of staff and campers alike.

Please read the following information carefully so you and your child can fully understand and agree to the expectations set forth by Camp Nissokone and Camp Ohiyesa.

### **Camper Behavior & Camp Culture**

Camp often requires an adjustment period in which our cabin groups and larger camp community learn how to get along with others, learn what is acceptable (behavior, language, physical action and attitudes) and what is not, and to learn appropriate communication techniques. To facilitate this process, camp staff spend time having campers set "cabin rules" so they can discuss behaviors and attitudes that will create a successful week. These rules usually include things like: respecting private property, no bad language, don't gossip, no hitting, etc. Various age groups will define them differently but all will come under building an atmosphere promoting respect, responsibility, honesty and caring.

### **Corrective & Disciplinary Process**

Most correction and disciplinary situations at camp are minor and can be resolved with minimal corrections. Camp staff use discipline as a learning opportunity for the camper and try to integrate problem-solving skills into the discussion. However, if the negative behavior continues the following steps **may be** instituted and are progressive depending on the camper response:

1. Discussion between camper and counselor to set verbal goals and objectives to correct the issue.
2. The Head Counselor will meet to clarify goals and objectives previously set.
3. If the conduct continues, documentation of the negative behavior will be recorded in the form of a written "Behavior Improvement Contract" specifically stating what actions will be taken and what the improvement needs to be. This is signed by the camper & staff. The Camp Director is notified.
4. If it still continues, the Camp Director will contact the parent/guardian to inform them of the situation and discuss possible options.
5. If the problem has not been corrected or continuously repeats, the Camp Director will contact parent/guardian to make arrangements for the campers' discharge from camp. The Executive Director will be made aware of the situation.

Although very rare at YMCA Camp, there are **certain Camp infractions** that are more serious and may require immediate attention by a Director. These include but are not limited to: fighting, using racial slurs, defiance displayed toward authority, conduct or behavior that threatens any person. These infractions may result in expulsion from camp.

**Extremely rare, but needing to be mentioned, the following infractions will result in immediate dismissal from Camp:** possession of any tobacco product, alcohol, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, over the counter drugs that are not listed on the medical form, weapons, sexually explicit material and/or behavior, any illegal conduct, bullying of others or any behaviors meant to replicate the effect of drugs. Camp Administrative staff retains the right to include other items that may not be listed above to assure that a safe camp atmosphere is maintained for all.

There will be NO REFUND OF ANY AMOUNT for campers who are sent home as a result of any of the above.

I agree to the above stated expectations and terms of dismissal and will work with my child to gain an understanding of creating a positive camp experience for all.

Parent/Guardian/Custodian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to the above stated expectations and want to help create a great camp experience for all.

Camper: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_