



Camper Conduct and Behavior Policy

At Sherwood Forest, we believe that all children have the right to a safe, kind, fun, and memorable camping experience. We expect campers to be respectful, responsible, and cooperative. We want campers to make friends, learn and try new things, and to have fun. In order to create a positive camp culture, it is important that every member of our camp community commit to the following conduct and behavioral expectations. Every parent/guardian is required to read the following information with their camper. The camper and parent/guardian must sign and return the Camper Conduct and Behavior Policy to Sherwood Forest. (This must be on file prior to the start of camp.)

Campers are encouraged to practice positive social skills which allow them to resolve conflicts and meet their needs without the use of harmful or destructive behaviors. When disciplinary situations occur, staff will work with campers to help them understand why their behavior is inappropriate. They will then help campers identify alternative behaviors that are appropriate for camp. We recognize that campers may have coping strategies and conflict management techniques that work for them at school or at home and staff will attempt to utilize these strategies and techniques as much as possible as appropriate for camp.

Camper Description:

We love and appreciate that all of our campers hike to the beat of their own camp song! However, there are three criteria that every camper must meet: first, they must want to come to camp. Second, they must be willing and able to learn and participate in a group. Third, they must be willing and able to follow the direction of staff members. These are required in order to ensure camp is safe, kind, and fun for all.

Campers are expected to:

- Maintain a positive attitude.
- Follow all camp rules and directions given by staff.
- Respect fellow campers and staff members, including personal space, belongings, choices, opinions, and lifestyles.
- Respect camp property, equipment, and natural resources.
- Use appropriate language – swearing, cursing, or discriminatory/racist, offensive/lewd jokes will not be permitted or tolerated.
- Talk through conflicts and challenges.
- Take responsibility and accept the consequences for their actions.
- Contribute to the camp community through supporting their peers, helping with group chores, and reflecting the Sherwood Forest values.

Bullying Policy:

Sherwood Forest defines bullying as repeated aggressive behavior with the intent of asserting power and/or control over another individual. We expect all members of our community to be respectful towards one another, therefore we take all incidents of bullying very seriously. If a camper has difficulty meeting this expectation, disciplinary action will be taken.

If a camper violates any part of the Camper Conduct and Behavior Policy:

- 1) We will discuss our concerns with them.

- 2) We will invoke disciplinary actions. (i.e. loss of privileges, time out from an activity and/or a call from home). At Sherwood Forest, we do not use any form of punishment; we use logical consequences to help campers learn more appropriate behavioral responses.
- 3) We will call parent(s)/legal guardian and if deemed necessary by the Camp Director, the camper may be dismissed from camp.

Immediate Dismissal:

Our hope is that we do not have to send a camper home before the session ends. However, our staff reserves the right to immediately dismiss campers whose behavior endangers the safety of themselves, other campers and/or our staff, thereby bypassing some of the disciplinary steps outlined above.

Immediate Dismissal Examples:

1. Any child who brings a weapon to camp.
2. Any child who brings legal (but not prescribed to the camper by a medical professional) or illegal controlled substances or paraphernalia, alcoholic beverages, or tobacco products to camp.
3. Any child who makes a credible threat to hurt themselves or others.
4. Any child who seriously harms themselves or others.
5. Any child who emotionally, verbally, mentally, sexually, and/or physically abuses fellow campers or staff.

Parent/Guardian Role in Camper Conduct:

Families must review the Camper Conduct Policy with their child, ensure the child meets the camper description, and ensure that campers and parents/guardians are aware of and agree to follow the behavioral expectations as well as the disciplinary process, including reasons for immediate dismissal from camp.

Camper Conduct Agreement

*This form must be reviewed with and signed by the camper and their legal guardian.
A parent/guardian's signature on behalf of the child is not acceptable.*

My child and I have read the Camper Conduct Policy, the information describing the program in which my child will participate, and this year's Family Handbook, and we understand and agree to abide by the policies and program expectations described in these documents.

My child and I agree to adhere to the behavioral expectations of camp including following any disciplinary actions set forth in response to inappropriate behavior.

My child and I understand that some circumstances warrant immediate dismissal from camp.

My child and I understand that camp is a commitment and that arriving late and/or leaving camp early is not an option. Missing home is not a reason for early departure.

I, _____ (camper) want to attend Sherwood Forest this year.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Camper Signature: _____ Date: _____