

Camp Behavior Guidance Policy

Philosophy

The Department of Public Health states that, “Discipline and guidance shall be consistent and based upon an understanding of the individual needs of the child. Camp staff shall direct discipline to the goal of maximizing growth and development of the child and for protecting the group and the individuals within it”.

Campers have a responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner that is in the best interest of the camp program its campers and staff.

Parents/Guardians have a responsibility to go over the Camper Behavior Contract with their camper(s). It is also important that you disclose any information or concerns regarding your child’s behavior that would be helpful for YMCA staff to know in order to make your child’s experience and the rest of the participants experience as positive as possible.

The YMCA camp staff have a responsibility to support your child in the camp setting, be a role model and to follow all safety protocol including managing behaviors.

Unsafe or disruptive conduct by a camper could result in termination from camp.

The following are **some examples** of disruptive conduct;

- Physical assault on a camper or staff person.
- Damage, destruction or stealing of YMCA property.
- Damage, destruction or stealing of personal property belonging to another camper or staff.
- Use of inappropriate language; insults, swearing, verbal threats and/or sexual references.
- Constant disruption of camp program resulting in the monopolization of the attention of camp staff.
- Inability to respect safety of self and others.

As the parent/guardian, I acknowledge and accept the contents of this document and the policies outlined in the parent handbook. I agree to actively support my child and work with the YMCA staff to help ensure a positive camp experience.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

(over)

Camper Behavior Contract

Parents/Guardians:

Please review the following behavior contract with your child. Ensure that they understand that they will be expected to follow each expectation at all times while at YMCA Camp.

Camp Character Code

Developing and displaying positive character values is very important to us at the YMCA. Understanding and practicing the character values of *Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility* are a big part of our commitment to offering a safe and fun camp experience, and it's important to us that our campers agree to follow our **Camper Character Code** :

We CARE for ourselves and those around us.
We earn each other's trust by being HONEST.
We RESPECT each other and the environment.
We are RESPONSIBLE for our own choices.

Each camper must read and initial each statement and sign, along with his/her parent or guardian, at the bottom to show that he/she agrees to abide by camp rules and honor our character code.

While at camp, I WILL:

- _____ Show respect and kindness to other campers and staff. _____ Be honest with other campers and staff.
_____ Respect the property of camp and other campers. _____ Demonstrate responsibility by being helpful.
_____ Be respectful of other's feelings and differences.
_____ Do what I can to have fun and help others have fun, too.

While at camp, I WILL NOT:

- _____ Fight, "rough-house", or behave in an unsafe way. _____ Threaten or bully other campers.
_____ Take things that do not belong to me. _____ Bring toys from home.
_____ Use inappropriate language (i.e. swearing/profanity or "bathroom" words)
_____ Share or trade food with other campers.

I have read and understood this Camper Behavior Contract, and agree to follow camp rules and honor the Camper Character Code. I understand that failure to comply with these rules will have consequences, which may include, but are not limited to, being prohibited from participating in activities, being dismissed from camp and sent home, and being prohibited from returning to Central Branch YMCA Camps.

Camper Signature: _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date _____