



Teen Camp Cell Phone and Social Media for Campers

Dear Parents:

Our camp values the importance of off-screen time and outside play as vital to children's physical, emotional, and social development. However, because cell phone and social media use among children and adolescents is so common in today's world, DCH's Teen Camp respects the right of campers to use them as a medium of self-expression and social connection. Included in the Teen Camp program are special periods of each day when campers are allowed to use their cell phones and other electronic devices. That being said, there are always risks associated with social media that range from online sexual solicitation to cyber bullying to damaging of one's own reputation. Please discuss these risks and the Teen Camp's policy with your child and encourage him or her to follow appropriate guidelines regarding their use.

Teen Camp policy is that:

1. Campers can only use their cell phones and other electronic devices during the scheduled electronics time on the camp schedule.
2. To utilize their electronic devices at other times during the day for special projects and research, campers must obtain the permission of a camp staff member.
3. Campers must not use their electronic devices and social media accounts to disparage the camp or camp staff.
4. Campers must not use their electronic devices and social media accounts to bully or harass other campers. Behaviors that constitute bullying and harassment include, but are not limited to comments that are derogatory with respect to race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, color or disability; sexually suggestive, humiliating or degrading comments, and threats to stalk, haze, or physically injure another person.
5. Dedham Community House is not responsible for any lost or stolen electronic devices.

6. Disciplinary Procedures:

Any camper found to be in violation of any portion of this policy will be subject to immediate disciplinary action.

- A verbal warning will be issued. The camper will be asked to discontinue the inappropriate behavior.
- If the behavior continues, the camper's phone will be taken away and given back at the end of the camp day. A note will be sent home with the camper.
- Major disciplinary incidents will follow the policy from the Parent Handbook.
 - PARENT CONFERENCE: Conferences will occur on the day of the problem behavior for staff and parents to discuss ways of improving the child's behavior. Parents' cooperation and support are an important part of resolving any behavior problems. An incident report will be placed in the child's file.
 - SUSPENSION FROM PROGRAM: If this step is reached, a letter will be given to the parent on the day the child is suspended. The letter will inform the parent/guardian of the length of suspension and the reason(s). An incident report will be placed in the child's file.
 - TERMINATION FROM PROGRAM: If the child's behavior has not improved at this point, we are left with no choice but to terminate. A parent conference would be scheduled to inform the parent and a letter provided to confirm the termination. An incident report will be placed in the child's file.

Parent Signature

Date

Camper Signature

Date