



CAMP KENNEDY POLICY FOR SENDING CAMPERS HOME

Tamarack Camps has a standard policy with regard to sending campers home due to behavior problems. Many circumstances are taken into account when making the decision to send a camper home, as each situation and camper is unique. However, our goal is to maintain a consistent policy. The decision to send a camper home is made by the Camp Director and the Director of Teen & Family.

Campers could be sent home for a variety of reasons including: inappropriate behavior, leaving or attempting to leave the group without permission; possessing or using cigarettes, illegal drugs or alcohol, stealing, inappropriate sexual behavior, jeopardizing the safety of themselves or others and/or participation in inappropriate pranks.

On the first day of camp the director conducts a meeting with all of the campers and staff in attendance, and camp policies are explicitly reviewed. Campers also have an opportunity to anonymously turn in any contraband items they may have brought on the trip such as cigarettes, illegal drugs, alcohol, cigarette lighters and matches. After a set time, campers are then held personally responsible for possessing or using these items.

SMOKING/DRUGS/ALCOHOL

Campers are informed that if they are in possession of cigarettes, illegal drugs or alcohol at any time in camp or out of camp, they should expect to be sent home. Parents are called immediately.

PERSONAL HEALTH

Campers are responsible for maintaining a healthy life-style while at camp. This includes eating appropriately, getting enough rest, staying hydrated and taking all required medication. Failure to follow through with these safety precautions could result in putting the camper and the group in danger. Therefore, campers could be sent home if they don't take responsibility to take care of themselves.

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

In most cases, a particular format is followed before a camper is sent home. When a camper's behavior is consistently inappropriate, he or she will be spoken to first by the staff and, secondly by the Camp Director. Also, the child's parents will be called to alert them of the problem and inform them that, unless there are significant changes made by their child, there is a possibility the child may be sent home. In addition, the camper will talk to their parents by phone. Open communication with the parents, child, camp director, and director of the teen and family programs helps to set the stage in case the child's behavior does not improve and he or she needs to be sent home.

The most significant factor in the decision to send a camper home is evaluating how this poor behavior is affecting other campers in the program. If one camper is negatively influencing their camp experience, the child will be sent home. This cost will be at the parents' expense. One camper will not remain on the trip and consistently dampen the experience of the remaining campers.

LEAVING OR ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE THE GROUP WITHOUT PERMISSION

Whenever a camper leaves the group without permission or even attempts to “run away,” he or she will be sent home. Typically, once a camper “runs” he or she will try again, and camp cannot be responsible for campers unsupervised away from the group at any time.

INAPPROPRIATE SEXUAL BEHAVIIOR

This topic is clearly discussed with the campers. Any camper who either intentionally violates, loses control of him or herself and approaches or touches someone else in a sexually inappropriate manner will be sent home. In addition, a camper who verbally threatens someone with sexually offensive language may also be sent home. Not only is this behavior unacceptable, but it also affects all other campers.

STEALING

At the first group meeting, the discussion always includes the topic of respect with regard to each other and other’s personal belongings. Campers are informed that they must ask permission to enter someone else’s living quarter or to use anyone’s possessions. When campers are in city/store vicinities, they are specifically reminded about camp’s policy of shoplifting. It is clearly stated that campers will be sent home if they steal.

PRANKS

Campers could be sent home for participation in pranks that may effect camp activities or destroy property. Damage to property is the financial responsibility of the parents.

SAFETY

A camper could be sent home if he or she either endangers his or her own safety or that of anyone else (for example: a camper who uses a cigarette lighter and bug spray to set something on fire). Obviously putting everyone in jeopardy, as a fire could start quickly. Also, the camper should not have a lighter in his or her possession.

Camper Name (Please Print)

Camper Signature

Date_____

Parent Name (Please Print)

Parent Signature

Date_____