

Dorm Room Behavior and Guidelines

For Campers and Volunteer Faculty

A More Comprehensive Explanation Is Available from the Camp Dean or Camp Office

- Two unrelated adults [age 18 and over] are to be assigned and responsible for behavior in each dorm room. Adults assigned to this dorm will be accountable to legal authorities for misconduct reported to such authorities.
- Two unrelated adult must be present in the dorm room when campers are in the dorm.
- Campers are only permitted in the dorm when at least two unrelated adult are present.
- Campers and Faculty must be fully clothed at all times when not in dorm rooms and restrooms.
- One person per bed. Beds must remain spaced according to legal distance.
- Stolen articles are to be reported to the dorm parent immediately.
- Medicine is to be given to the camp nurse upon arrival at the camp.
- Talking is God's gift of communication. Cursing, flippant use of God's name, vulgar language, and offensive joking was not God's intention.
- Cell phones, picture phones, cameras, video cameras, iPods, portable games, personal music and gaming devices are off-limits in the dorms or restrooms.
- Acceptable clothing is that which does not distract from the spiritual atmosphere or present a safety risk.
- Clean dorms are healthy. Orderly clothes and beds make for more enjoyable camp experiences.
- Writing on beds, walls, mirrors, floors or any other camp property is considered intentional destruction of property.
- Intentional destruction of anything in the dorm will be paid for by the individual or individuals involved or the adults assigned to the rooms.

BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES

Children's behavior has many roots. One session at Round Lake will not cure all behavioral problems. Campers bring their pasts with them in their behavior. If you can determine the root of the behavioral problem, you may have a clue on how to deal with it.

Keep in Mind:

1. Campers are not mini-adults. They want to have fun and be active.
2. Campers will test their limits; however, they want and need limits.

Common Reasons for Behavior Problems:

1. A desire for recognition/attention; it may be better to be notorious than unknown.
2. Frustration; unsatisfied needs or desires often cause campers to "lash out".
3. Homesickness; being scared and nervous often causes frustration.
4. Illness/exhaustion; no one is at their best when they are sick or tired.
5. Conflict with another camper/staff member; this causes people to become defensive.
6. Outside conflicts; problems with family, friends, etc. can follow campers to camp.
7. Established behavior patterns; lessons learned at home won't be forgotten at camp.

Provide Structure without being a Drill Sergeant:

1. Establish clear expectations right away.
2. Balance structure with a reasonable amount of freedom.
3. Reinforce and encourage desirable behaviors – language, dress, respect for others and their property.

Things to do about Rule Violations or Refusal to Cooperate:

1. Give camper one warning; make it clear that they have done wrong.
2. Give your camper a chance to explain; they may have a good reason.
3. Be consistent and impartial.
4. Stay cool and calm; keep strong emotions in check.
5. Avoid lecturing or embarrassing the camper; discipline in private if possible.
6. Stress that the behavior is the problem, not the camper's personality. Help the camper to identify acceptable alternatives to the problematic behavior.
7. Once the disciplinary time is over, accept the camper as a part of the group again.
8. Follow the camp behavior-management policies for continuing discipline problems.

Time-Tested Strategies

1. Be the kind of person you want your campers to become – obey the rules yourself!
2. Know as many campers as possible by name. Know something about them.
3. Be friendly. Show an interest in what individual campers are doing.

4. "One pat on the back is worth two slaps in the face." Praise good qualities and actions.
5. A sense of humor is extremely valuable.
6. Maintain your poise at all times. Don't let the campers "get to you."
7. Never take misbehavior personally. It is a choice the camper is making.
8. Every child has needs; behavior gives you clues as to what those needs are.
9. Misbehavior is seldom willful. Try to find the cause.
10. Try to see the camper's side of the situation. Discuss it with them until you understand.
11. One of the best methods to control behavior is to keep them busy!
12. Show your disapproval of behavior through your speech, facial expression and action.
13. Being close when you note a potential problem can keep it from actually occurring.
14. Enlist other volunteer faculty to provide role models.
15. Allow natural consequences to occur if the results are NOT too severe.
16. Withholding privileges or taking away something a camper likes is usually effective.
17. Sending a child to "time out" allows time to cool down and think about behavior change.
18. Have a group meeting to discuss and resolve generalized problems.
19. Remain with your campers during meals and free time.
20. Avoid getting campers over-tired, keyed-up or tense.
21. Be willing to admit when you're wrong and ask for forgiveness.

Sometimes it is best to simply ignore behaviors rather than reward or punish, which may actually provide attention to encourage the behavior. Ignoring behaviors usually works best for campers who seek attention by clowning around.

Sometimes, giving the child attention or affection, which has been lacking, may solve the problem. Giving the child some form of responsibility or encouraging a special interest or talent may result in improved behavior. Often the activity, if it is at his/her own physical, emotional and intellectual level, is enough to correct the situation.

The Bully or Show Off

To deal with these children, you first need the child's confidence in you as a leader. To do this, you should not be dominating, overly critical or too demanding on the child's performance. To maintain this child's confidence, praise good behavior – instead of only criticizing bad behavior. Discuss with the child the rights of others and courtesies due them. Let him/her know others will be more accepting if this behavior is turned more positive. Demonstrate compromise in your actions for the child to learn.

In group activity make a special effort to place this child in competition with others of equal or greater strength and ability.

Essentially, the bully or show off requires understanding and patience combined with placement of the child in groups that lend to his/her development of leadership traits in honest competition with other children.

Fighting

Serious fighting often evolves from what starts out as just "fooling around." Keep a close eye on such

horseplay to keep it from getting out of hand. When a fight breaks out, separate the combatants AT ONCE. Let your voice show calm, mature authority. Attempt to give them time to cool down. Watch facial expressions to indicate less tension. Disallow any angry verbal exchanges and physically remove combatants to a “safe distance” from each other if necessary.

Fights that involve serious contact (hitting, kicking, biting, punching) require both combatants to visit the nurse, who will check for bruising and internal injuries. An incident report should be completed.

Once combatants have regained composure, try one or more of the following:

1. Calmly discuss the situation separately with each individual. Emphasize resolving the problem, not placing blame. Aim for a mutual “shake hands and make up” plan.
2. Hold a face-to-face hearing where each participant describes his/her version without interruption from the other. Attempt to help each see the other side. Then reconcile differences, make up and forgive.
3. Allow the individuals to discuss the situation between them privately IF you are sure the anger has dissipated. You can help mediate if they wish.
4. Invoke a logical consequence if clear provocation can be established or if this is a repeat offense.

Stealing

Prevent stealing by establishing an atmosphere of trust within all members of the group. Discuss openly the need to respect each other’s property. Establish group rules as campers feel a need to protect individual property and define sanctions for rule infractions. Always discourage campers from leaving valuables out in the open unnecessarily. If stealing still occurs:

1. Give the offender opportunity to return the article anonymously, without punishment.
2. You may need to play detective if the item is not returned and the offender is still unidentified. Be cautious in seeking group cooperation in order to avoid the offender being ostracized.
3. If you have evidence to identify an offender, deal with the camper privately. Give him/her a chance to make restitution and make a plan together to avoid repeat behaviors.
4. If evidence is lacking as to the offender’s identity, try handing out sheets of paper to each member of the group. Have them write either “I did not take it,” or “I did take it and I’m sorry,” and sign their name. Give them the opportunity to secretly place the papers in your custody. Deal with the offender privately at a later time.
5. If the problem persists, follow camp procedures and inform the Camp Manager or Dean.

Voluntary Search of Belongings for Stolen Goods:

1. Camp Dean is the only one who can authorize such a search
2. Camper must be present
3. Two adults must be present during search at least one of same sex
4. If Camper refuses--call parents--explain what is missing and reason for the search
5. Request permission to search from parents
6. If permission is denied—tell parents Camper is to be taken home
7. If victim wants, report theft, while at camp

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Hazing Law: —2903.31

The Hazing law could be applied to acts required by the Dean or a volunteer faculty.

HAZING; recklessly participating or permitting

- (A) As used in the section, “hazing” means doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person.
- (B) No person shall recklessly participate in the hazing of another. No administrator, employee, or faculty member of any primary, secondary, or post-secondary school or of any other educational institution, public or private, shall recklessly permit the hazing on any person.
- (C) Whoever violates this section is guilty of hazing, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

Behavior Management Policy

Round Lake advocates a positive guidance and discipline policy with an emphasis on positive reinforcement, redirection, prevention and the development of self-discipline. Remind campers that camp rules are established for safety and to ensure that we have a common standard of behavior. As staff members, we need to show the campers that we see the need for following the rules ourselves. Please do not contradict the established guidelines!

Corrective discipline must be a creative, caring effort on the part of the counselor, and it must be seen as such by the camper. Always suggest positive alternatives to unacceptable behavior before it gets out of control.

1. Discuss rules with campers and identify out-of-bounds areas.
2. Discuss the possible consequences of breaking any rule:
 - Quiet time
 - Restriction from activity such as swimming, recreation
 - Restriction to adult supervision
 - Extra duties
 - Conference with dean
 - Conference with parent/dean
 - Removal from the camp
3. Enforce all rules at all times, without malice, and be consistent in application.
4. Inform the camp dean of all disciplinary measures.
5. **Never** allow discipline to include depriving a camper of sleep, food or restroom privileges, placing a camper alone without supervision or subjecting a camper to ridicule, shaming, threat, corporal punishment (striking, biting, kicking, squeezing), washing out the mouth or physical exercise or restraint.
6. Ensure that the camp environment is not contributing to behavior problems.

