

Camper Code of Conduct

Statement of Purpose

Our goal for each child attending a summer camp program is to have an experience of Christian community in which the camper is safe and grows spiritually and socially. Because of this goal, campers are encouraged to participate in all camp activities to the best of their ability. Likewise, campers are encouraged to treat one another and the staff with mutual respect.

During a week in camp, in the course of activities, it is natural that there will be conflicts within cabin groups and between campers and their counselors. It is in resolving these conflicts - in the give and take of negotiation - that some of the most important lessons of a week at camp are learned.

Occasionally, however, behavior on the part of a camper may become too disruptive to the camp community and require their removal from camp because conflicts cannot be resolved. The following guidelines are presented for children during their week in camp.

Parents are encouraged to review these guidelines with their children.

All Shetek Lutheran Ministries Participants are to...

1. Abide by the rules and regulations of the camp.
2. Use language appropriate for a Christian community.
3. Respect the rights, privacy and property of others.
4. Respect the property and facilities of the camp.
5. Wear appropriate clothes for activities as suggested by camp staff.
6. Engaging in or threatening acts of physical, sexual or verbal abuse is prohibited (camper/camper or camper/staff).
7. Possession or use of tobacco, alcohol, or any illegal substance or paraphernalia is prohibited.
8. Possession or use of weapons is prohibited.

Zero Tolerance Policy

Because we want campers to be able to experience the safest week possible, Shetek Lutheran Ministries has adopted a zero tolerance for the following behaviors.

1. Verbal Assault or Bullying: defined as "unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time." (*stopbullying.gov*)
2. Possession or use of tobacco, alcohol, or any illegal substance or paraphernalia
3. Possession or use of weapons of any kind
4. Theft
5. Physical violence or assault
6. Sexual violence or assault

Any camper who willfully violates any of the above rules of conduct may be dismissed immediately.

Disciplinary Action

Shetek Lutheran Ministries will attempt to be fair in assessing consequences for camper behavior. When appropriate, consequences shall be given in a progressive order in relation to the severity and/or frequency of the infraction(s). The specific disciplinary action and severity of punishment for inappropriate camper behavior will be handled by the Executive and/or Program Director(s). Law enforcement officials will be involved when laws have been broken. Parents/guardians and campers will be made aware of their rights under the law.

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Search of Personal Belongings

In order to provide for the safety of campers and staff, Shetek Lutheran Ministries retains the right to search all personal belongings of every camper who attends camp and camp-sponsored events. If any staff member has reasonable suspicion that a camper possesses any substance, article or weapon that is in violation of the rules of conduct, the Executive and/or Program Director(s) have the right to perform a search of the camper and the camper's belongings. If a camper refuses to be searched, Shetek Lutheran Ministries will treat the incident as if the camper were found to be in possession of a substance, article or weapon that is in violation of the rules of conduct and the camper will be dismissed. If a search is to be performed, the Executive and/or Program Director(s) will determine the appropriate time and place and shall have the camper in question present during the search.

Camper Conduct and Discipline Policy

A complete copy of the Camper Conduct and Discipline Policy may be obtained by calling or writing to Shetek Lutheran Ministries. Included in the policy are: the rules of conduct including definitions, guidelines for disciplinary action, guidelines for camper dismissal, guidelines for searching personal belongings, guidelines for authorized use of restraint, and guidelines for dissemination of the policy.

Reimbursement of Fees

If the camper is dismissed due to inappropriate behavior, no refund of camper fees will be available.

Admission Agreement

I acknowledge that I have read through the above code of conduct with my child. I am aware that my child is expected to cooperate and participate in all camp activities. Likewise, I am aware that my child is expected to abide by all regulations governing personal conduct and use of camp property. If my child does not cooperate, or becomes a hindrance to the camp program, I understand that my child will be sent home.

I, as a parent, have signed in the appropriate place on the Health History Form.

I acknowledge that I have read through the above code of conduct. I am aware that I am expected to cooperate and participate in all camp activities. Likewise, I am aware that I am expected to abide by all regulations governing personal conduct and use of camp property. If I do not cooperate, or become a hindrance to the camp program, I understand I will be sent home.

I, as a camper, have signed in the appropriate place on the Health History Form.

Please complete online prior to arrival at camp.

Thank you for your cooperation.