

# Camp Clover Point Camp Counselor Agreement

## Internet and other Technologies

We have always taken the safety and well-being of our campers and counselors very seriously. With more and more youth using the Internet, cell phones and other technologies at younger ages, we want to ensure that campers and counselors continue to have the safest, most wholesome experience at camp as possible. Technology has posed challenges to the continued health and safety of our camp community. Please review and read this technology agreement carefully.

Camp Clover Point has a “no-cell phone/electronic device” policy at camp. Aside from the fact that cell phones, smart watches and other electronic devices are expensive, can get lost or stolen and that the physical camp environment is not kind to such items, there is a fundamental concern with counselors having these devices at camp, and that is trust and responsibility. As camp counselors, you are responsible for caring for the physical and emotional health and safety of your campers 24 hours a day. Cell phones and other electronic devices can easily distract you from your required duties as a camp counselor. Parents are trusting their children into our care and expect their children to be well-cared for while at Camp Clover Point. This means that counselors are expected to give campers their undivided attention at all times and be fully engaged with them throughout the duration of camp.

Cyber-bullying and harassment has happened at a few camps around the country when campers or counselors have sent rude, demeaning, intimidating or vulgar e-mails or IMs to other campers or counselors or have created false screen names to harass members of the camp community or spread false and damaging information about them. We want to be sure Internet communication is fun, positive and an important way for campers and counselors to stay in touch with their friends.

We understand that email, IM and social networking sites like Facebook, Instagram and SnapChat can be positive avenues to express yourself and keep in touch with your friends. As a counselor you have the right to exchange emails, IM, or befriend other counselors in any way that you **AND YOUR PARENTS** see fit.

Think about the emails, IMs and comments on social networking sites that you may share with other counselors. Remember:

- a. Keep what you say respectful of campers, counselors and staff alike
- b. Do not use obscenities, vulgar or sexual language
- c. Do not say threatening, harassing, or intimidating things to or about other campers or staff
- d. Do not post pictures online that would embarrass or violate anyone's privacy
- e. Do not pose as another counselor online or spread false information about anyone or say derogatory or threatening things to or about anyone
- f. Do not use a website, blog, or email to talk about things that are against camp policy like drugs, alcohol, bullying, or sexual things

As a 4-H Camp Clover Point Counselor, you must request and receive prior written approval from the camp to:

- Use the camp name or official camp logo or camp photograph
- Add a link from a group page, profile, or other site to the official camp website
- Include text or photographs that are property of Camp Clover Point
- Include photographs of campers, counselors or staff members
- Create a camp “group page”

We are happy to say that most internet communication is POSITIVE! In the rare case where we discover negative messages to other campers, counselors or staff our policy is to call the parents of the counselor who sent the messages and share the contents with them.

We want you to be safe on the Internet. **If you receive a threatening email, IM or message on your personal website—one that is mocking or uses vulgar or harassing language tell your parents immediately. If you think the message might be from someone at camp, ask your parents to notify Extension staff immediately!**

Camp Clover Point has a different policy when it comes to exchanging contact information with your campers. You may only provide your snail mail address if requested. Any other contact with campers including email addresses, IM screen names, cell phone numbers, social networking profiles, blogs, or any Internet contact is not condoned by Camp Clover Point.

Another drawback of having electronic devices at camp is many of them have built-in cameras. It has happened at some camps around the country that children have secretly taken photographs of other campers or staff during changing or showering times and later uploaded those images onto the Internet.

If you would like to take pictures at camp you may bring a camera. A disposable film camera is preferred (with an affixed return address label for identification). As with other electronic devices, the physical camp environment is not kind to digital cameras, and they can be easily broken, lost or stolen. The first afternoon of camp, campers (with counselors present) will be allowed to take pictures of their bunk area inside their cabin. For the remainder of camp, only outside pictures are permitted during evening rec. We do not permit any type of video camera at camp.

**PLEASE SIGN BELOW TO INDICATE THE FOLLOWING:**

- I have read over and agree to comply with the Camp Clover Point Technology Policy.
- I understand the importance of internet safety and I take full responsibility for my internet use and communication with Camp Clover Point staff, counselors and campers. I understand the risks associated with children and the internet in today's world.

Counselor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_