

# Texas Asthma Camp

## BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE POLICY

A child's behavior may have many root causes. It is not expected that one week at summer camp will cure all behavioral issues. As a staff member, keep two things in mind:

- Your campers are not mini-adults. Expect them to want to have fun and be active.
- Expect your campers to test their limits and yours; however, they still want and need limits.

Some ways to provide positive structure:

- Establish clear expectations right away.
- Positively reinforce and encourage desirable behaviors.

Things to do about rule violations or refusal to cooperate:

- Give camper one warning; make it clear that their behavior is wrong.
- Give your camper a chance to explain; they may have a good reason.
- Be consistent and impartial.
- Avoid lecturing or embarrassing the camper; discipline privately (with another adult present) unless safety is an issue.
- Stress that the behavior is the problem, not the camper as a person. Help the camper to identify acceptable alternatives to the problem behavior.
- Once disciplinary time is over, openly welcome the camper as a part of the group again.

It is the desire of the Texas Asthma Camp that all children attending camp have a fun, exciting, and enriching camp experience. This is the responsibility of ALL staff members. **At the same time, it is not right or fair for the behavior of one child to diminish or interfere with the camp experiences of the other children.**

### Establishment of Clear Expectations

**Step One:** Discuss policies and procedures with campers and identify out-of-bounds areas. Discuss the consequences of breaking any rule and explain they might include:

- 1) Quiet time
- 2) Restriction from activity
- 3) Restriction to adult supervision
- 4) Extra duties
- 5) Conference with Camp Director
- 6) Dismissal from Texas Asthma Camp

**Step Two:** Should a camper misbehave, the Counselor should discuss the issue and resolution and warn the child that a second offense will result in being taken to meet with the Camp Director. Any behavior that endangers the child, other campers or staff, or is destructive to Camp Tyler should be taken very seriously, and the child should be immediately taken to meet with the Camp Director or Activities Director. Make sure your co-counselor or another staff member is available to watch the other kids in your cabin.

**Step Three:** It is not fair to the rest of the kids in the cabin A second trip to the Camp Director will result in a trip home for the camper **regardless of the time of day or night**. It is not fair

**NO** behavior that is damaging to the camp facility or dangerous to any camper or staff member will be tolerated. Depending on the severity of the issue, it may result in **immediate** dismissal from camp.

Hitting, spanking, or striking campers is not permitted under **ANY** circumstances. If a child is out of control, send an adult for the Camp Director. If the child is physically out of control or in danger of harming him or herself, restrain the child by firmly and safely holding his arms to his sides until the Camp Director arrives. If there are other children present, instruct them to sit quietly.

At no time will discipline include depriving a camper of sleep, food, or restroom privileges, placing a camper alone without supervision, or subjecting a camper to ridicule, shaming, threats, corporal punishment (striking, biting, kicking, squeezing), washing out the mouth, or excessive physical exercise or restraint of any kind.

### **Dismissal from Camp**

Should a child's behavior warrant dismissal from Texas Asthma Camp, the parent or guardian will be called regardless of the time of day or night to make arrangements to pick up the child. **Dismissal from camp will prohibit future Texas Asthma Camp attendance.**

## **CAMP VISITOR POLICY**

All visitors must report first to the Camp Tyler Clinic or Main Office unless the Camp Director or Activities Director has been notified approval granted approval to the visit.

### **Relatives and friends of campers:**

Visits to camp on the part of camper family and friends other than for the purpose of transportation to and from camp are not permitted. Experience shows that such visits tend to encourage or intensify homesickness either in the child or among other campers and is disruptive of the camp community. Such visits also tend to defeat development of independence in campers, which is one of the objectives of camp. As a result, these visits are not allowed except in emergency situations.

Parents or guardians are welcome to call the Texas Asthma Camp at (903) 565-4475 during the day to check on their children.

### **Relatives and friends of staff:**

Visits to camp by relatives and friends of staff must be cleared in advance by the Camp Director and limited to Movie Night except in an emergency situation.

### **Other Interested Parties:**

Visits to camp by people interested in observing the camp operations are welcome provided arrangements are made with the Camp Director in advance. Such individuals must be escorted by camp staff at all times while on camp grounds.

## **CELL PHONE / TEXTING POLICY FOR CAMPERS**

Campers are not allowed to bring their cell phones to camp. Any child who comes with a cell phone will be required to turn it over to his or her counselor who will give it to the Camp Director for safekeeping. It will be returned at Check-Out.

Not all children have a cell phone, and experience has shown that it causes homesickness and resentment on the part of the other children who have no ability to contact home and friends. Should parents or guardians feel uncomfortable with this policy, please consider other camps that do not have this policy for your child.

At the same time, parents/guardians are always welcome to contact the Texas Asthma Camp during daytime hours to check on their child. Numbers are provided in the General Camper Information document.

## **RELEASE OF CAMPER POLICY**

All campers are to be released **only** to an authorized person.

Authorized persons must be directed to the Camp Director, Activities Director, Camp Physician, or Camp Nurse to sign their camper out.

If a custodial parent requests that a camper not be signed out to a non-custodial parent, the request will be in writing and will be located in the child's medical chart.

When a last-minute change occurs in who will be picking up a camper, the new instructions are to be verified by the Camp Director, Activities Director, Camp Physician, or Camp Nurse from an authorized person.

No camper may leave camp at any time without prior authorization from the custodial parent and the Camp Director, Activities Director, Camp Physician, or Camp Nurse.