

## CAMP BEHAVIOR GUIDANCE POLICY

### **Philosophy**

The Department of Public Health states that, "Discipline and guidance shall be consistent and based upon an understanding of the individual needs of the child. Camp staff shall direct discipline to the goal of maximizing growth and development of the child and for protecting the group and the individuals within it".

Campers have a responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner that is in the best interests of the camp program, all the campers and staff.

Parents/Guardians have a responsibility to go over the Camper Behavior Contract with their camper(s), as we want to make all camp experiences to be a positive one.

The YMCA camp staff has a responsibility to support your child in the camp setting, be a role model and to follow all safety protocol, including behavior management.

### **What will happen when this contract is violated?**

If an incident occurs where a child conducts himself/herself in such a manner which jeopardizes their safety, the safety of others, or is not in accordance with the mission of the YMCA, the following steps will be taken.

1. First Violation: A staff member will address and document the issue directly with the child. The child may be removed from an activity for the day, such as swimming, free time, etc. Parents will be contacted during the day or at the end of camp depending on the time and severity of the incident. Parents must sign the character contract at time of pick-up.

2. Second Violation: A staff member will address and document the issue directly with the child. The parent or guardian will receive a phone call and may be asked to pick up their child within the hour. The child may or may not be allowed to attend camp the next day that he/she is registered for. Parents must sign the character contract at the time of pickup.

3. Third Violation: A staff member will address and document the issue directly with the child. Parents may be contacted immediately to pick up their child from camp. The child may be suspended for the day or week that he/she is registered for depending on the severity of the incident. Parents must sign the character contract at the time of pick-up.

4. Fourth Violation: Child will be dismissed from camp for the remainder of the program.

*\*Please Note: We reserve the right at any time to dismiss your child from the program immediately if we deem unsafe placement due to environment, physical, emotional, or other harm to themselves, other children, and staff. The following character contract guidelines have been read and discussed.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Camp Behavior Contract

### Parents/Guardians:

Please review the following behavior contract with your child. Ensure that they understand the expectation and that they adhere to the terms of the contract at all times while at the YMCA.

### Camp Character Code

Developing and displaying positive character values is very important to the YMCA. *Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility* is a large part of our commitment to offering a safe and exciting camp experience. It is imperative that our campers agree to live by our Camp Character Code while under our supervision.

***We CARE for ourselves and those around us.  
We earn each other's trust through HONESTY.  
We RESPECT each other and the environment.  
We are RESPONSIBLE for our own choices!!!***

Each parent and camper must read and initial each of the statements below as acknowledgement of their agreement to abide by camp rules.

### WHILE AT CAMP, I WILL:

- Show respect and kindness to other campers and staff.       Show responsibility by being helpful.
- Be honest with other campers and staff.       Respect the property of camp and other campers.
- Respect other people's feelings and differences.       Participate and give every activity 100%
- Follow all safety rules and help keep everyone safe       Have fun and make it fun for others.

### WHILE AT CAMP, I WILL NOT:

- Fight, "rough house" or behave unsafely.       Share/trade food with other campers.
- Threaten or bully other campers or staff.       Bring toys from home, including electronics devices
- Use inappropriate language.       Climb, write, or damage property at YMCA, or trips.
- Walk away from staff or a program.       Take things that don't belong to me

I have read and understand this Camp Behavior Contract, and agree to follow camp rules and honor the Camper Character Code. I understand that failure to comply with these rules will have consequences, which may include, but are not limited to: **Prohibition from participation in activities, One-day dismissal from the YMCA Summer Camp, and or Permanent expulsion from the YMCA Summer Camp**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date