

CELL PHONE & ELECTRONICS POLICY

Since the pandemic we've all spent a great deal of time using computers, tablets and smartphones as a means to communicate with one another and stay informed.

The reliance on social media and digital technology to keep us informed and entertained also has increased, driving us to check notifications and scroll more frequently than ever before.

We've lost and somewhat forgot what it's like to be 'in the moment'. The lack of social gatherings, the lack of in-person school, the close quarters with our siblings and parents – all have given us more time to interact with devices.

Camp, gives us the ways and the means to take a digital detox from our digital dependency. At camp, we believe wholeheartedly that our campers desperately want and need in-person interaction. Even if it is with safe social distancing and masks (until we are assured of a safe environment) we know that returning to in-person communication and acting and singing are all so exciting and vital to good mental health and well-being.

For the good of us all, campers will not be allowed to bring any cellphone or electronic device that has access to WIFI, cell service or is otherwise able to transfer data to camp. Campers who are flying to camp may bring their phones on their journey, but must turn them in to the office upon arrival. We will store the phones in the office until those campers finish their stay at camp.

Parents, please be respectful of our rules and partner with us by communicating this message at home. For any summer, this cell phone and electronic policy aligns with our mission of allowing campers the opportunity to gain independence, learn self-advocacy, and immerse themselves in our camp culture and program. We know parents and children want that too.

While WIFI is out, we do recognize that reading and music play a key role in a camper's daily life and their mental health. Music Players (like an iPod Nano Shuffle or inexpensive MP3 player) must have music already downloaded since campers will not be able to stream or download any item while at camp. For note taking – bring a notebook and pencil; for reading – bring books. Campers requiring school or professional contact may do so in our WIFI classroom or from the camp office. If a camper is found with a cell phone or any device that is WIFI capable, that device will be confiscated. There will be no exception to this policy.

Every cabin has a computer set up for email which is open every session after the first few days. In addition, camp phones are open for calling out after the first week of every session. Further, we suggest every camper bring a disposable or digital camera to camp to record their stay.