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TRAVEL CAMPER CELL PHONE POLICY

Days in camp and camp trips are times for campers to enjoy exciting activities and bonding with their peers. They are not a time to talk on the phone or send text messages. To ensure the success of our Travel Program, we will strictly enforce the following Cell Phone Policy.

Campers are prohibited from bringing cell phones to camp on days when they are remaining in camp, and we strongly discourage all campers from bringing their cell phones on day trips. We also urge you not to send cell phones with campers on extended overnight trips. Camera cell phones are strictly prohibited. In the unlikely event of an emergency, our Travel Program staff is equipped with cell phones. All campers will be with a staff member at all times on trips, so there should never be a time when a camper needs to use his/her personal cell phone. Additionally, each Travel Camper will wear a wristband on all trips which will be imprinted with a toll-free number that goes directly to the Division Head's cell phone. Again, in the unlikely event of an emergency, the toll-free number can be called from a payphone at any time.

While we ask that all cell phones be left at home each day, we understand that some parents want to hear from their children when they are away on an overnight trip. Each camper will have an opportunity (if they so desire) to make a short call home on a staff member's cell phone each night between 9pm and 11pm depending on the scheduled evening activity. If no one is available to take the call, the camper will leave a message confirming that everything is fine. We ask that parents do not try to call campers or staff members while they are out on trips. If you must reach your child or the Division Head, please call camp and leave a message on the camp answering machine. We will get the message to the Travel group as quickly as possible.

Camper cell phones should never be used to tell parents that a trip will be arriving back to camp ahead of or behind schedule. The camp office will inform parents by phone and/or e-mail if a late arrival is expected. (Please see Tween & Teen Trip "Late Pick-Up" Notification Form.) If we are ahead of schedule, we may decide to make a fun stop for a snack which will keep us on schedule but frustrate a parent who arrives early based on a cell phone call from their child.

If a camper is found using a cell phone while at camp, the phone will be taken away and held at the office until the end of the day. If a camper is found using a cell phone while on a day or extended overnight trip out of camp, the phone will be held by the Division Head until the end of the trip. If there is a second offense of cell phone misuse by any camper (in or out of camp), the camper will not be permitted to attend the next scheduled road trip (whether it is a day trip or an overnight trip).

Please understand that this strict Cell Phone Policy is in place to maximize the safety and happiness of our Travel Program Campers. We appreciate your support on this extremely important issue!