



Bullying Policy and Behavior Agreement

It is our vision at YMCA Camp Matawa to provide a welcoming atmosphere and a sense of home for all of our campers through our dedication to quality programming, outstanding service and inclusion. The Spirit of Matawa fosters relationships, builds character and creates memories that will last a lifetime.

In order to ensure that everyone has this positive experience, we want all of our camp families to understand that the physical and emotional safety of each of our campers is our number one priority. Therefore, **at YMCA Camp Matawa, bullying is inexcusable and is grounds for immediate dismissal from camp.**

Bullying comes in many forms. During staff training and throughout the summer, we work with our staff to identify and stop any incidents that may occur. We understand that boys and girls bully in different manners and that the physical bullying that boys sometimes use (pushing, hitting, kicking) often pales in comparison to the emotional bullying and exclusion that girls use (teasing, gossiping, taunting). Each week of summer camp we work within the cabins and as a camp to set the expectations of how each of the campers wants and can be expected to be treated. We are committed to offering a summer camp program that helps campers to see the “common ground” they all have. We know the best way to reduce bullying is to create a positive atmosphere from the start! We have set up our schedule to provide many opportunities for cabin unity and understanding.

Each year our campers tell us that one of the most special things about Camp Matawa is that it is a safe place where they can be accepted for who they are. Our policy is not in reaction to a problem at camp, but rather a proactive approach to offering a wonderful experience to each of our campers.

We encourage you to let us know about particular concerns that you have regarding bullying at camp or any camp related emails, instant messages or other incidences. We know that with excellent staff training and follow through, solid communication regarding our expectations to campers, and a strong partnership with parents that we can be successful in managing this issue.

Please read and sign the Behavior Agreement on the reverse of this page and feel free to contact us with any feedback, questions or concerns. We are looking forward to your involvement at YMCA Camp Matawa this summer!

In the Spirit of Matawa,

The 2010 Summer Camp Administration and Staff Team

Camper Name: _____

Session: _____

2010 YMCA Camp Matawa Summer Camp Behavior Agreement

Parents: Please take a moment to review the following agreement with your camper. Signify that you both understand and agree to each statement by initialing the box.

- I will arrive and remain at camp with a positive attitude, open to meeting new people and trying new activities.
- I will work with my counselors and cabin mates towards creating a cabin environment that is safe and welcoming for each of us.
- I will work with my counselors and cabin mates to set expectations for our cabin behavior and will adhere to these expectations.
- I understand that doing intentional harm or bullying another camper, either physically or emotionally is grounds for dismissal from camp.
- I understand that although I may be able to solve some conflicts on my own, my counselors are always ready to listen and assist if there is a problem. I understand that my counselors and all of the camp staff need and want to help but can only do so if I am willing to share any concerns that I have with them.
- I will remain with my cabin or activity group as required.
- I will use appropriate language and understand that the use of excessive, deliberate, profane language will not be accepted.
- I will leave my cell phone at home understanding that if there is an emergency the camp staff will be happy to allow me to use the phone and will pass on any urgent messages from home.
- I will be respectful of the property and personal space of other campers. I will use my camera in appropriate areas only and will not bring any video recording devices to camp.
- I believe that it is possible to spend my time at camp “electronics free” and will leave any video games, music systems or other digital media at home. I might however, bring a good book!
- I will not possess smoking materials, lighters, matches, illegal drugs, alcohol or weapons of any kind on the camp grounds.

We have read and agree to the above behavior agreement and understand that not following these policies may result in disciplinary actions including dismissal from camp.

Parent's Signature

Camper's Signature

Camper Name: _____

Session: _____