

## Desert Southwest Conference Camp/Event - Discipline Policy

At deans' requests, we have drafted the following as a policy to guide the discipline of particularly disruptive camp attendees. While some deans may struggle with the idea of disciplining a child - let alone sending one home - we recommend all deans be aware that you are authorized to send a disruptive child home to ensure a safe, quality camp experience for others.

Please note that there is a separate Inappropriate Behavior / Disciplinary Report Form available online and at the camp. In the event of any disciplinary problems or actions, see your site director for the appropriate form to log the incident(s).

### Three-Step Discipline Policy:

As a part of registering for a camp, campers' parents/guardians are required to read and sign the following release:

*I, the undersigned parent/guardian, give permission for my child to participate in the indicated camp. I understand that as a Christian camp there are basic expectations of respectful behavior, and if my child is overly disruptive s/he may be given a warning about such behavior. If disruptive behavior persists, the camp staff will first consult with me over the telephone and may later require me to remove my child.*

*The following are the basic behaviors asked of participants:*

- *He/She will involve him/herself with camp activities offered.*
- *He/She will be responsible to the adult leadership of the camp for the duration of the camp.*
- *He/She will dress and behave as a Christian person.*

*Possession or use of any tobacco products, alcohol, or drugs (excepting for prescribed medical purposes) are grounds for immediate removal*

It is suggested that deans have **campers** themselves read and sign a similar statement at the time of registration, but that is up to your discretion. Note that there is no longer a "camper covenant" included anywhere within the registration process.

Below are the three steps to be taken if an individual's behavior is identified by camp leadership to be disruptive of the camp experience.

*By "disruptive," we mean particularly egregious and **repeated** behaviors such as:*

- *disrespect of, or non-cooperation with, staff and/or those in supervision*
- *violation of established rules*
- *disruption of program activities or discussion (whether by speech, action, or even inappropriate inaction)*
- *rude, cruel, or otherwise offensive language*
- *sexually explicit speech or activity*

Note that any behaviors that endanger others or violate specific camp prohibitions (e.g. alcohol, weapons) may require an immediate contact of the parent/guardian to return the camper home as soon as possible. In such situations, the guidelines of #3 below shall be followed.

1. Warning to and conversation with the camper that the current disruptive behavior needs to cease. Conversation should include potential alternatives for such behavior(s), and identify the next step if such behavior continues. Often times a first offense can be easily handled with redirection and later reflection on how a behavior was inappropriate. Note that these conversations might best be had separate from other campers.
2. If the same, or similar, behavior continues, the dean and camper call home to discuss the situation with a parent/guardian, identifying the behavior that is disruptive. The camper should be present for, and involved in, this conversation.

Some Suggestions for such a conversation:

- Identify the behavior and discuss why it is inappropriate
  - Talk about alternatives
  - Be specific with both camper and parent/guardian about the potential consequence, as listed in #3 below, for further incidents
3. If the same, or similar, behavior persists after the first call home, the dean will contact the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian is responsible to pick up child in a timely manner.

While awaiting transportation home, the camper will be separated from the rest of the camp in a supervised setting (e.g. isolation in the nurse's cabin), while within the guidelines of Safe Sanctuary policy.

If this step is taken, the following considerations should be shared with camper and parent/guardian:

- a. In most cases, the consequence of a removal is just for this experience. Campers are welcome to return the following year, provided their willingness to behave appropriately.
- b. A camper removed from camp for reasons of behavior is not eligible for any refund.

Developed in conversation with past deans by:

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