



## **CAMP OSAGE DISCIPLINE STRATEGIES AND PROCEDURES:**

The Camp Osage program has been developed to provide activities that are safe, creative, and fun for the campers. No child's behavior will be allowed to interfere with our right to enjoy being at camp. Praise and recognition of good behavior is built into our program. We believe that a camper who is kept busy focusing on positive behavior is much less likely to stumble "off the trail" into negative behavior. Strategies have been developed to help each child choose to behave appropriately. To guarantee all children in the program a safe, positive, and enjoyable climate, we utilize the following Behavior Guidelines and Discipline Strategies.

### **Behavior Guidelines**

Please read our behavior policy with your camper before camp.

We expect campers to act respectfully at all times when they are on our property or participating in our programs. Campers are to behave in a mature, responsible way and respect the rights and dignity of others.

Actions will reflect the YMCA Four Core Values:

- Campers take **Responsibility** for their actions.
- Campers **Respect** themselves, each other, camp equipment and the environment.
- **Honesty** will be the basis for all relationships and interactions.
- Campers will be **Caring** in their relationships with others.

*Campers should talk to a counselor or any camp staff member if they are uncomfortable with any experiences or need assistance while at camp.*

### **Field Trips & Special Program Behavior Requirements**

Field trip attendance is a privilege not a right. Campers will earn the right to attend field trips and attend special programming activities. Registration in the Camp Osage program will automatically grant permission for attendance on field trips. Parents will be notified if your camper will miss a field trip because of behavior consequences. Campers who do not attend field trips because of behavior consequences may remain at the YMCA with designated camp staff. Structured activities and programming will be available at the YMCA for those campers who do not attend field trips.

## **Conflict resolution**

When children are having difficulties with each other, the staff will give the children involved reasonable opportunities to resolve their differences. The staff will mediate with the children and supply them with problem solving techniques that will help them deal with difficult situations.

## **Discipline Procedures**

When a camper does not follow the behavior guidelines, we will take the following action steps as behavior problems progress.

1. Staff will redirect the camper to more appropriate behavior.
2. If inappropriate behavior continues, the camper will be reminded of behavior guidelines and camp rules, and camp staff will decide on action steps to correct his/her behavior.
3. If inappropriate behavior continues, as a final action step the camper may be dismissed from camp. Single day(s), week(s), or full summer dismissals can be applied.

Examples of unacceptable behavior:

- Refusing to follow behavior guidelines or camp rules
- Using profanity, vulgarity or obscenity
- Stealing or damaging property (personal or camp property)
- Refusal to participate in activities or cooperate with staff
- Disrupting a program
- Leaving a program without permission
- Endangering the health and safety of children and/or staff
- Teasing, making fun or bullying of other campers or staff
- Fighting of any kind

Camp Staff will record incidents of behavior that warrant 30-minute time-outs. The Camp Co-Coordinator reserve the right to skip over early consequences if behavior is severe enough to pose a risk to either the misbehaving camper or others in the group. Our goal at camp is to give the child every opportunity to correct his or her own behavior, without involving the parent.

Camper fees are non-refundable if a camper is sent home for disciplinary reasons. Physical violence or bullying toward another camper or staff member will result in immediate dismissal from the camp program.

# Bullying Policy

At Camp Osage, bullying is inexcusable, and we have a firm policy against all types of bullying. Each camper is expected to treat all other campers with respect, and to help each other achieve the best possible experience. If a camper has difficulty meeting this expectation, parents may be called upon to assist.

**Bullying** refers to one or more perpetrators who act aggressively toward their victim by verbal or physical means. This behavior is not a one-off episode; it must be repetitive and habitual to be considered bullying.

Our leadership addresses all incidents of bullying seriously and trains staff to promote communication with their staff and their campers. We work together as a team to ensure that campers gain self-confidence, make new friends, and go home with their camp experience.

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*(Please sign / detach and return to camp coordinator)*

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (parent/guardian), have read and understand the information in the Discipline Strategies and Procedures handbook and will assist the Camp Osage staff / YMCA in providing a safe, positive, and enjoyable climate while my child(ren) attends Camp Osage.

Child / Camper Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

