

## **Ohio 4-H Camp Cell Phone Policy**

(Ohio 4-H Policy effective October 2015)

As a means of risk management, youth participants (campers and counselors) may not possess cell phones\* during 4-H camp. Counselors shall not use cell phones (as alarms, music players, etc.) in their cabins at any time. Camp Program Directors have discretion for permitting camp counselors selective cell phone use during limited time periods, such as during out-posting, nature treks, or off-camp travel (field trips), or for other safety concerns where the use of two-way radios is not practicable. Camp Program Directors will determine consequences for possessing a cell phone. The State 4-H Office recommends a zero-tolerance approach: If an individual is caught with a prohibited cell phone, they will be sent home at the family's expense.

\*Camp Program Directors also have discretion for prohibiting other internet-enabled devices at their 4-H camps.

***The Fairfield County Camp Director recognizes the Ohio 4-H Camp Cell Phone Policy. However, Fairfield County Camps will abide by the Tar Hollow Electronics Policy as we will prohibit other electronic devices as outlined below:***

### **TAR HOLLOW ELECTRONICS POLICY FOR CAMPERS AND COUNSELORS**

(Approved by the Ross Hocking Extension Camp Board 3/27/2014)

#### **Cell Phones:**

Campers and counselors shall **NOT** bring any kind of cell phone to camp. Cell phones do not have reception at camp, and their use as cameras is prohibited.

#### **Music players:**

Counselors and staff may bring music players, radios, and iPod type devices but only for use in the cabins as alarm clocks and for music. Counselors may use iPod type devices outside of the cabin only at dances where the counselors are serving in a DJ capacity.

In addition, iPods may not be used to play games or in a cell phone like capacity for texting, photos, or internet purposes.

#### **Other electronics:**

Campers and counselors shall **NOT** bring any other handheld game, laptop, or other communications devices capable of accessing the Internet through Wi-Fi or another external network.

#### **Cameras:**

Campers may bring cameras to camp provided that they cannot upload pictures to the Internet. Due to the nature of camp programs, a disposable or inexpensive camera is highly recommended.

#### **MESSAGE TO PARENTS:**

We know in this high-tech era that it's difficult for youth to not be in constant contact with their families and friends via Facebook, texting, or cell phone calls. However, camp is a unique experience. The camp experience helps youth develop life skills including independence and self-reliance. Among the concerns that make bringing and using cell phones and other communication devices inappropriate at camp are:

- Concern that such expensive devices will be lost, damaged, or stolen. OSU Extension, camp, and staff cannot accept responsibility for lost, stolen, or damaged items at camp.
- Inappropriate use of photo and video devices. We know from media reports that the ease of uploading *inappropriate* photos and videos is a concern. Cyber bullying is not permitted before, during, or after camp.

In addition, youth contact with home if they are suffering a temporary spate of homesickness at camp may cause the condition to worsen. We fully appreciate and respect the positive relationships our campers and counselors have with their families, but if they are to benefit fully from the camp experience, they must be encouraged to develop the skills of independence and self-reliance. If there is an emergency, or if we are concerned about the youth's well-being, we will contact the parents or guardians immediately. Campers are constantly in the company of other campers and counselors while at camp, and our camps are staffed with many caring adults, including an experienced camp nurse.

***Thank you for your cooperation with our electronics policy.***

## 4-H CAMP COUNSELOR CODE OF CONDUCT

I, \_\_\_\_\_ agree that if selected, I will participate in the 4-H Camp Counselor Training Program. I understand that this is a training period and only once I complete my certification am I permitted to be a counselor at 4-H Camp.

I understand that I am taking on a different role at camp. I am applying to serve others, not to go purely for my own enjoyment. By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to abide by the requirements, responsibilities, and expectations listed in this application packet if selected as a camp counselor. I understand and agree that I will be asked to call my parents/guardian immediately to pick me up if I conduct myself in an irresponsible manner, which includes being out of my cabin after hours and/or the possession or use of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs or fireworks.

I will be expected to:

- ✓ Attend the required number of counselor training sessions. I understand I will be dismissed if I am not able to complete the required training.
- ✓ Abide by the No Cell Phones at Camp Policy and Tar Hollow Electronics Policy.
- ✓ Treat other peers with respect.
- ✓ Not bully fellow counselors or participate in goat-play or hazing.
- ✓ Conduct myself as a positive role model and be responsible.
- ✓ Set a good example by not using profanity or telling off-color jokes, and stories.
- ✓ As a 4-H member, not have in my possession tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs.
- ✓ Not have possession of harmful objects without specific authorization from the camp director, including but not limited to: knives of any kind (pocket, utility, etc.), lighters, matches, fireworks, explosives, firearms, weapons, etc.
- ✓ No pornography or other sexually oriented materials including nudity in visual or written materials including similar content.
- ✓ Be a responsible cabin counselor and ensure campers are provided guidance towards a safe and fun week.
- ✓ Ensure that all campers are supervised by counselor staff at all times. Be sure that all campers know that they must remain on the camp grounds at all times and are responsible for their behavior at all times.
  - Get to know each of the campers personally and by name.
  - Have all campers, including myself check in any of their medications with the nurse.
  - Make sure each camper uses personal hygiene.
  - Make sure that all of my campers are familiar with camp facilities and camp rules.
  - See that all campers are involved in all activities. Make sure no one is excluded.
- ✓ Check for illness or injury, but don't make much of a "fuss" about minor things. Go with hurt or sick campers to the nurse no matter how minor the ailment.
- ✓ Follow guidelines for lights out, and cabin supervision. Be in my cabin with my campers at all times between the hours of "Lights Out" and "Rise and Shine."
- ✓ Never discipline a camper by ridicule or physical punishment; patience and understanding works best.
- ✓ Urge safety at all times. Take time to explain how and why to do something safely.
- ✓ Work as a team to plan, organize and conduct all camp activities.
- ✓ Be flexible with counseling and adult staff (plans do change and rains do come).
- ✓ Participate in camp promotion.
- ✓ Follow leadership of camping program through adult advisors/volunteers/staff. Feel free to discuss problems with the Camp Director.

I certify that the all the information being submitted is correct, and understand that failure to comply with these rules could result in probation, or loss of counseling position for the year.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_