



CAMPER CONDUCT GUIDE

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Favorite People. Favorite Place.



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WELCOME LETTER

May 30, 2023

Dear Camp Chateaugay Parents,

I am thrilled to have your family join us this summer at Camp Chateaugay! Camp Chateaugay is more than just a summer camp—it's a community built on friendship, respect, and a shared love for the outdoors. Since 1946, Camp Chateaugay has been a place where children and adults have converged to embrace the unique experiences that camp offers, whether it's cheering around the campfire, challenging themselves in a new activity, or simply getting to know a new friend surrounded by the beauty of nature.

Our incredible camp spirit and traditions are guiding forces to uplift, guide, and motivate your children. We promote and ensure inclusion, fostering an environment that respects and celebrates the diversity of all campers and staff. We create an atmosphere where individuals of all abilities, backgrounds, races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, religions, and socioeconomic statuses feel welcome and valued. We refer to our staff as “youth development professionals” and they are trained to serve as role models for the campers emulating a code of conduct that encourages kindness, wonder and personal responsibility.

This document is called The Chateaugay Camper Conduct Guide (“the Guide”) containing information about acceptable and unacceptable behavior that Camp Chateaugay Staff, Campers, Volunteers, and Parents must know and follow to ensure a successful summer. The Guide is intended to empower everyone at camp and promote a positive and safe camp environment. I believe it to be the basis for a successful and unforgettable summer.

I highly recommend that parents first review the material contained in the Guide prior to sharing it with their camper(s) as it contains subject matter of a sensitive nature that may not be suitable for younger campers. Please use discretion when discussing it with your children. Camp is a wonderful place, and this document is intended to help keep it that way.

Thank you for entrusting us with the care of your camper(s.) We are grateful to be able to be a part of your family and welcome you into ours!

Warm regards,



Mitch Goldman
Director

NOTE: The Guide articulates Camp Chateaugay’s specific expectations regarding appropriate conduct for all its Campers, Parents/Guardians, Staff and Volunteers. The Guide shall be available for review at the camp office and sent via email to each camp family.

CAMPER AND PARENT COOPERATION

Camp Chateaugay's primary objective is to provide a physically and emotionally safe and nurturing environment for campers and staff, in which children have enriching experiences often away from their parents for the first time. We do this by putting a focus on three things: having fun, making friends, and learning skills.

To achieve this objective, it is imperative that the camp's environment be safe, secure, and free from disruption. Campers are expected to follow the Guide in every respect. Lack of knowledge or awareness about any camp rules, will not excuse violations of the Guide. However, since we foster a supportive and nurturing environment, we are realistic that children are in a process of personal growth and development. Learning from mistakes is an essential part of that process. If campers have behaved outside the scope of the Guide, when applicable, they will be provided the opportunity to take responsibility for their misconduct and repair harm, if possible.

Conduct that substantially disrupts the cabin and camp environment will be taken seriously and thoroughly addressed. This includes any camper behavior while campers are enrolled at Camp Chateaugay, on and off-campus, regardless of location.

Parent cooperation is essential to achieving this objective and vital in the enforcement of all camp rules. Parents should understand and be familiar with the Guide and ensure that their child understands and seeks to comply with the Guide. Camp administration will communicate with parents when a camper's conduct is outside the scope of the Guide and assist the camp in counseling campers regarding appropriate behavior.

PHILOSOPHY OF CAMPER DISCIPLINE AND INTERVENTION

Camp Chateaugay believes in always promoting positive camper conduct to maintain order at camp, fostering a climate of mutual respect for the rights of others, and teaching campers that they are responsible for conducting themselves in a manner appropriate to their age and level of maturity.

Camp Chateaugay fosters the following values: kindness, honesty, respect, effective communication, sharing, creativity, friendship, and generosity.

We encourage our campers, staff, and volunteers to be enthusiastic, thoughtful, open-minded, and involved. We do our best to treat others as we would like to be treated. We do our best to care for ourselves and those around us. We are all responsible for our actions and respect each other and our environment.

The term "discipline" derives from the Latin root word disciplina, which means, "to teach." In this spirit, Camp Chateaugay promotes the use of thoughtful and effective interventions that provide campers the opportunity to learn and grow from their mistakes or poor choices.

RIGHT TO SEARCH

Campers should have no expectation of privacy with respect to camp-owned property. Camp administrators may search any camp property, including camp property that is within a camper's possession or otherwise being used by a camper, at any time, with or without notice to the camper and without consent. Camp officials may confiscate any items found during a search, including prohibited items, dangerous items or other items that violate camp policy. A camper's person or property may be searched by authorized camp officials if the official has a reasonable belief that the search will result in the discovery of evidence of a violation of the Guide. Any personal property which is brought onto camp property or to a camp sponsored or camp-related activity or event, on or off camp property, may be subject to search (e.g., camper smartphone, backpack, purse, etc.)

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

The following conduct by any camper, staff member or volunteer at Camp Chateaugay constitutes a violation of the Guide. Any individual found to have engaged in such conduct shall be subject to one or more disciplinary consequences ranging from a discussion of the behavior to expulsion. Parents will be included in this disciplinary process for campers.

General Camper Misconduct

Including but not limited to:

- Cursing, using offensive language, name calling, ethnic, racial or gender slurs, homophobia, or other derogatory statements, or verbally aggressive language.
- Disrespectful behavior towards any staff, campers or volunteers.
- Failure to follow directives.
- Disruption of instruction or other camp activities or operations.
- Unexcused or excessive tardiness.
- False statements or false accusations.
- Bullying (including cyberbullying), teasing, or targeting other campers, staff or volunteers.
- Inappropriate cell phone or electronic media use.

Violation of Camp Agreements and Procedures

Including but not limited to:

- Failure to comply with the Camp Chateaugay Camper Conduct Guide, or other camp rules.
- Leaving the campus, camp activities or camp events, or any adult supervision without permission.
- Skipping an activity period or other mandatory activity, in whole or in part, without permission.
- Defacing, destroying or otherwise modifying camp property without authorization.
- Taking photographs or making video or audio recordings of campers, staff, or other persons without the consent of the other person.
- Soliciting or attempting to solicit another individual to violate the guide, camp policies and rules, or the law.

- Taking steps toward violation of the Guide even if the act is not completed, as determined by appropriate camp administrator.
- Failing to follow camp directives and camp rules and expectations.
- Disobeying rules and expectations regarding camp transportation.
- Inappropriate or unauthorized use of camp property, including posting or distributing literature or materials without camp authorization.

Violent, Illegal and other Serious Offenses

Including but not limited to:

- Conduct which meets the elements of a criminal offense, as determined by the camp and the law.
- Physical, verbal, or sexual harassment of others.
- Inappropriate physical or sexual behavior, including jokes, comments, gestures, or unwelcome physical conduct or contact.
- Inappropriate or indecent exposure of body parts.
- Raising false alarms that impact the daily camp environment and operations.
- Hazing or initiations.
- Possessing, distributing, using or being under the influence of tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, drugs, alcohol, or controlled substances, including prescription drugs if the camper has not been prescribed the drugs or is taking a dosage in excess of that specified by the prescription.
- Possessing drug paraphernalia.
- Stealing, lying, or cheating.
- Violence of any kind.
- Fighting.
- Setting or attempting to set a fire or any form of arson.
- Retaliation of any form against other campers or camp staff.
- Possession or distribution of pictures, text messages, electronic messages, or other material of a sexual or obscene nature.
- Endangering the health or safety of others.

TYPES OF INTERVENTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

The following are potential interventions and consequences for violations of the Guide, but are not limited to:

- Cooling off time.
- Seating change within bunk or activity area.
- Various age-appropriate reflective assignments.
- Camper conference with a camp staff member.
- Parent phone call.
- Parent conference.
- Circle conference; or restorative circle.

- Restorative action or assignment to provide an opportunity to repair harm.
- Verbal or written correction.
- Daily or weekly camper improvement plan.
- Behavioral support plan.
- Safety plan.
- Camp-related assigned tasks or duties.
- Loss or restriction of privileges.
- Consequences related to camper participation in extracurricular activities, including removal, suspension, or restriction of participation.
- Removal from cabin to the Pillbox.
- Confiscation of items.
- Referral to an outside agency or legal authority.
- Expulsion.

DISMISSABLE OFFENSES

A camper may be sent home if he, she or they is found to have committed any of the acts listed below:

- **Prohibited Weapons.** The camper used, exhibited, or possessed any prohibited weapon while on camp property or while attending a camp-sponsored or camp-related activity on or off camp property.
* (Swiss army knives, flint starters, and other outdoor utility knives or axes may not be prohibited if used in conjunction with our Wilderness program and will need prior authorization to bring them to camp from the Camp Director/Assistant Director.)
- **Violent Conduct.** The camper engaged in conduct that could be punishable as assault against another camper, an employee, or a volunteer of the camp.
- **Disruptions.** The camper engaged in one of the following:
 - False alarm or report, or a terroristic threat involving the camp.
 - Intentional false reports regarding the transmission or presence of an infectious disease.
 - Breach of computer security if the conduct involves accessing a computer network, or computer system owned by or operated on behalf of the camp and the camper knowingly alters, damages, or deletes camp property or information or commits a breach of any other computer, computer network, or computer system.
- Criminal mischief if the conduct is punishable as a felony.
- Public lewdness or indecent exposure to any other member of the camp community or individual outside of camp.
- Possession or use of Drugs and Alcohol.
- Certain Bullying Behavior.
- Sells, gives, or delivers to another person or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of any amount of marijuana, dangerous drug, or alcoholic beverage.
- Engages in conduct that could be punishable as an assault.
- Commits frequent violations of the Guide that cause significant disruption to the camp environment or substantial interference with the summer camp process.

REPORTING

Because Camp Chateaugay is dedicated to maintaining zero tolerance for abuse, it is imperative that everyone actively participate in the protection of campers, staff, and volunteers. If a camper, staff, or volunteer observes or learns of any suspicious or inappropriate behaviors and/or policy violations on the part of other staff, volunteers, or other campers, it is their personal responsibility to immediately report their observations to a trusted adult. Campers are encouraged to report concerns or complaints about staff, volunteers, and other campers to any adult employed by Camp Chateaugay. All staff at Camp Chateaugay are trained in their pre-camp training on the proper reporting of child abuse and can aid any campers in the reporting of child abuse in any form.

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Appropriate and supportive personal relationships between Campers are encouraged. However, Camp Chateaugay strongly discourages romantic relationships between Campers while at Camp Chateaugay. Campers may not sit on others' laps, kiss, or engage in other physical or sexual contact with other Campers while in programming. Additionally, there will never be, under any condition, a romantic or otherwise sexual relationship between a camper and another camper or between a camper and staff or volunteer.

BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

Camp Chateaugay prohibits bullying of any kind and reserves the right at our discretion to send home any camper(s) that bullies other campers. Retaliation against anyone involved in a bullying complaint process, including but not limited to, a victim, witness, or another person, who in good faith provides information concerning an incident of bullying, is also a violation of the camp's bullying policy.

The Definition of Bullying at Camp Chateaugay

The term "Bullying" or "being a bully" is often used incorrectly which is why we will define it as following:

Bullying means a single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more campers directed at another camper that exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression, or physical conduct that has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a camper, damaging a camper's property, or placing a camper in reasonable fear of harm to the camper's person or of damage to the camper's property; is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive social environment for a camper; materially and substantially disrupts the camp process or infringes on the rights of the victim at camp.

Bullying applies to incidents that occur on, or that are, delivered to camp property or to the site of

publicly or privately owned vehicle being used for transportation of campers to or from camp or a camp-sponsored or camp-related activity.

Cyberbullying is prohibited. Cyberbullying is defined as bullying that is done through the use of any electronic communication device, including through the use of a cellular or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, a social media application, an Internet website, or any other Internet-based communication tool.

Examples of Bullying

Bullying may include, but is not limited to, the following: bullying of a camper may include discrimination, harassment, hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name calling, rumor spreading, purposeful exclusion or ostracism.

Examples of Retaliation

Retaliation may include, but is not limited to the following: threats, rumor spreading, ostracism, assault, destruction of property, or unjustified punishments.

PEANUT & TREE NUT ALLERGIES

The possession of any products that contain peanuts or tree nuts on campus is a serious health risk to our campers and staff that have peanut or tree nut allergies. Therefore, all items that contain tree nuts or peanuts are strictly prohibited. That includes any food items, lotions, hair conditioner, shampoo, body spray or any other product what has nuts or was manufactured in a facility with peanuts or tree nuts.

Since the safety of all the members of our camp community is our highest priority, we need to be vigilant in this rule. Exposure to peanuts and tree nuts can be lethal to those that are allergic, so anyone that violates of this rule will be subject to the highest disciplinary consequences including but not limited to dismissal from camp.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Direct or text messaging between Campers and Staff/Volunteers are not permitted including to befriend/follow Campers on social media/networking sites is also not allowed, unless approved and signed off by the Campers parents/guardian through our 'Social Media Contact form.' Campers, staff and volunteers will comply with Camp Chateaugay's social media policies and policies governing the use of personal mobile communication devices while on Camp.

CELL PHONES & ELECTRONICS

Camp Chateaugay is an electronics free camp but we do allow our Counselor's In Training (CITs) to use smartphones or iPad in designated areas after campers have gone to bed. In limited circumstances a CIT's personal telecommunications device may be searched by authorized personnel. The use of cellular phones or any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms or restroom areas while at camp or anywhere outside of camp designated areas of use. Camp Chateaugay is not liable for lost or stolen cell phones.

CITs are prohibited from sending, posting, accessing, or displaying electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. This prohibition applies to conduct on and off camp property, regardless of whether the equipment used to send such messages is the camp's or personally owned, or if it results in a substantial disruption to the camp environment. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content, commonly referred to as "sexting," will be disciplined and may, in certain circumstances, be reported to law enforcement.