

Dear Parents,

We have always taken the safety, well-being and camp experience of our campers—your children— very seriously. We also know we cannot do this without your help. With more and more children using the Internet, cell phones and other technologies at younger ages, we appeal to you as parents to partner with us to ensure that your child enjoys the safest, most fulfilling camp experience possible.

Please read our Electronic Device policy carefully. It will help you understand the challenges some technologies pose to the continued health, safety and enjoyment of our camp community. **Please also review and then read to/with your child prior to camp.**

When children come to camp, they develop independence and important life skills with regard to communication and living in close quarters with others. This is one of the growth producing, yet challenging aspects of camp. As children learn to trust other caring adults, they grow and learn, little by little, to solve some of their own challenges. We believe this emerging independence is one of the greatest benefits of camp. It is one important way your child develops greater resilience and personal growth. When kids scrap their electronic devices for unique experiences with other people their own age, beautiful things can happen. Relationships can form, activities can be enjoyed (that don't involve screens) and memories that can last a lifetime can be made.

Camp Gray Rock operates under a “Cellphones Not Encouraged” policy. Most summer camps have completely prohibited electronic devices; at this time we feel this is not necessary for our camp. **Should you feel the need to send a cell phone with your child to camp, you may do so, under the terms and conditions outlined in our policy, including assuming full responsibility and liability of loss or damage and understanding the cost of many of the challenges cell phones bring to youth camps.**

Cell phones have posed many challenges in past years including:

- Conflicts between campers
- Homesickness
- Inappropriate and frequent use
- Focusing on friends at home rather than friends at camp
- Campers’ instinct to call parents when they need advice instead of turning to their peers, counselors, the summer camp director.
- Distraction & disconnection from camp activities, counselors and fellow campers
- Devalues the instructional, educational, social and personal growth and confidence benefits of camp
- Counselors and camp director’s time dealing with the fallout of these issues instead of being able to focus on the camp experience of all campers

We agree to contact you if your child is experiencing a challenge in their adjustment to camp. You can help by talking with your child before they leave for camp and telling them that there is always someone they can reach out to, whether it be their Summer Camp Director, Camp Counselor, or other camp Staff Member.

We are all here to help and thank you in advance for supporting our mission to provide the absolute best camp experience possible. We invite you to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Cindy Carner
Summer Camp Director

Camp Gray Rock Electronic Device Policy

As of June 2, 2021

1. Campers are encouraged not to bring a cell phone to camp.
2. If a camper brings a phone to camp, they will turn in the device at check-in.
3. Devices will be locked in the Camp Office and distributed during "Device Time" 2-3 times per week at the Camp Director's discretion. Device Time is solely intended for short communication. Any other use of a cell phone during this time will lead to device confiscation until the end of camp.
4. If a camper brings an electronic device to camp, they assume all liability. Electronic devices are expensive and can get lost, stolen or damaged, and the physical camp environment is not kind to such items.
5. All other electronic devices are prohibited at camp. This includes Gameboys, PSP's, Nintendo DS or any other hand-held game devices, as well as Laptops, Netbooks, iPADS, iPods, Kindles, Nooks and similar electronic devices.
6. Non-cellphone/Smart device Cameras ARE allowed and all responsibility is assumed by the camper. Under no circumstance should campers take photos of others in embarrassing situations or while performing inappropriate actions.
7. Any camper caught violating this policy will have their cell phone/device confiscated until the last day of camp and may face immediate expulsion from camp.