

## \*\*\*2023 Cell Phone Policy\*\*\*

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.

**Beginning with the 2023 camp season, Camp Gray Rock will become a Tech-Free camp. Cellphones, smart watches and other electronic devices are no longer allowed at camp. We will no longer have a place to store them, nor will we be distributing them during 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.

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.

You may send mail to your camper at our address; you will also continue to see updates and photos/videos online via social media.

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