

## **Behavior Policy**

### **Staff Ratios**

Camper to staff ratio is always 12:1 unless on the water in which case it is 10:1. Note: Junior Counselors under 16 count as campers. Junior Counselors 16 and over can count as staff for staff to camper ratios. That being said a Junior Counselor should never be solely responsible or left alone with a group of campers. A camper should never be alone with a staff member.

### **Behavior Management Philosophy**

The goal of Schooner Summer Camp is for all campers to have a fun, safe, and educational experience while they attend our camp. Campers physical and emotional safety is our top priority through all our programs. Camp Counselors are trained in positive behavior management strategies, multiple intelligences, and understand that each camper comes with a different set of emotional, physical, and educational needs. Our staff are trained to help meet the need of each child, adapt programs, problem solve with campers, their parents, and group members to help each youth have a great summer experience.

### **Behavior Management Strategies**

#### **Clear Expectations (Stewardship Agreement)**

Schooner staff help prevent conflict through ensuring each camper knows and understands the rules and expectations of the camp. On the first day of camp each group of campers works with their Counselor to go over and create a Stewardship Agreement together. The Stewardship Agreement has all of Schooners zero tolerance policies (see below) on it as well as policies the campers come up with themselves for how they want to treat each other and work together as a team. By having the campers create the Stewardship Agreement together, they have ownership over and understand the rules and expectations on a deeper level. After the agreement is created each camper signs the Stewardship Agreement and the Counselor carries it with the group at all times as a reminder of their commitment to each other.

#### **Redirection**

Staff use redirection to diffuse harmful or distracting behavior. For example if a youth is playing with a stick in the sand during a group activity the instructor might ask them to be a helper or play a role to facilitate the activity.

#### **Reminder of Expectations (Stewardship Agreement)**

A Counselor may remind a camper of the program expectations and might pull out the Stewardship Agreement and ask the camper if he/she is following all the expectations on their Agreement.

### **One-on-Ones and Problem Solving**

If a camper is having a really hard time a Counselor will pull them aside to check in with them and see if there is something going on that they can help with. If a camper is having an issue with another camper the Counselor can help the camper problem solve and act as a mediator if need be.

### **Taking Space**

If a camper is upset and needs some time to cool down they can take some space away from the group or from the group activity. When a camper takes space it is always supervised and campers have the opportunity to talk out their frustrations or problem solve with staff.

### **Mediation**

If there is a conflict between campers staff are there to help mediate any conflicts they may have.

### **Calls home**

A camper will receive a call home if they break any of the Zero Tolerance Rules or if they have a particularly challenging day. This is to help ensure strong communication between camp staff and parents/guardians.

### **Day Off**

If a camper's behavior does not improve the following day at camp after the above interventions and a call home and they break a Zero Tolerance Rule they will earn a day off of camp. After one day off of camp the camper may return to camp.

### **Persistent Behavior Challenges**

Persistent behavior challenges are any behavior that is repeated after the above intervention strategies have been used. The Camp Director will contact the parent/guardians and will agree on a behavior plan and timeline for addressing the behavior at camp. If the behavior continues after the behavioral intervention plan has been implemented, parents may be asked to withdraw their child from the program.

### **Immediate Program Withdrawal**

Any behavior that causes a significant danger to the camper or others will result in immediate withdrawal from the program. Children who are asked to withdrawal from the program are welcome to enroll in the program in future years if the parent feels they have gained the skills to manage their behavior and act in a safe way.

### **Refund Policy**

There are no tuition refunds available for days that a parent is asked to keep a child home from camp.

### **Zero Tolerance Policy**

Schooner Kids 2 Coastline does not tolerate any of the following behavior.

- **Hitting or any physical aggression towards another camper**
- **Bullying- name calling or humiliation of another camper**
- **Running away from the group- campers must stay with their group at all times**
- **Bringing any weapons or harmful items to camp**

**These result in a call home and if the behavior persists the child will earn a day off of camp.**