**Sample Camper Behavior Policies**

# MISSION STATEMENT

Camp seeks to provide safe, fun, creative and challenging camping opportunities that foster individual and family growth in areas of self-worth, responsibility, self-expression, independence, leadership, and environmental awareness. Camp provides a sustained group living experience bringing together persons of diverse backgrounds in a natural outdoor environment under the supervision and guidance of trained leaders.

# Bullying

Bullying is when one or more people exclude, tease, taunt, gossip, hit, kick, or put down another person with the intent to hurt another. Bullying happens when a person or group of people want to have power over anther and use their power to get their way, at the expense of someone else. Bullying can also happen through cyberspace; through the use of emails, text messaging, instant messaging, weblogs, person Web sites and other less direct methods. This type of bullying can also lead to persons being hurt during or between the camp seasons and be especially hurtful when persons are targeted with meanness and exclusion. Bullying is inexcusable at Camp. Each camper is expected to treat all other campers with respect, and to help each other achieve the best possible experience. If a camper has difficulty meeting this expectation, parents may be called upon to assist. We work together as a team to ensure that campers gain self-confidence, make new friends, and go home with great camp memories. Unfortunately, people who are bullied may not have the same potential to get the most out of their camp experience. Our leadership addresses all incidents of bullying seriously and trains staff to promote communication with their campers so both staff and campers will be comfortable alerting us to any problems during their camp experience. We can’t manage an incident if we don’t know about it. Every person has the right to expect to have the best possible experience at camp, and by working together as a team to identify and manage bullying, we can help ensure that all campers and staff have a great summer at Camp.

# Camper Attire

While Camp does not adhere to a dress code, high intensity movement is required for musical theater. If a camper attends with movement-restricting clothes, the camper may be asked to change if able. If the problem becomes consistent, the issue may be raised with the parents/gaurdians.

# Civil Disobedience or Camper Disruption

Any camper conduct, either individually or in a group, that is intentionally disruptive to or designed to be disruptive to the normal operation of the camp program may result in being sent hom. Such conduct includes but is not limited to the following: destruction of camp property, or advocating such disruption or destruction, refusing to cooperate with camp staff attempting to maintain or restore order in the cabin/group, and/or program activity, consistently starting fights or arguments in cabin/group and/or harming another camper.

**Corporal Punishment**

Camp DOES NOT subscribe to corporal punishment as a means to discipline campers.

# Dangerous Weapons

Items designed to cause bodily harm or deemed potentially harmful, are confiscated. The parents/guardians are contacted. Bringing such items to camp may result in campers being sent hom. All types of knives and dangerous items MUST be kept off the camp property.

# Deceitful Activity

Any camper involved in lying or attempting to deceive a camp staff person will be subject to disciplinary action.

# Diversity

We are a community made up of a diverse population. The camper population is comprised of a diverse population consisting of campers from all types of race, faiths, socioeconomic background, family structures, inner city, suburbs, etc. The unique quality about Camp is that we all come together as ONE community and have a fun, safe time together. It’s important for everyone to feel important and have a positive camping experience.

# Drinking and Drugs

Zero Tolerance Policy = camper automatically sent home. Alcohol and drugs absolutely have no place at camp! Positively no alcohol, drugs or controlled substances are to be carried onto the camp property; this includes cigarettes or any other tobacco product. Any camper in possession of alcohol, drugs, or a controlled substance is sent home immediately. In the event alcohol, drugs or a controlled substance is found, it is confiscated and the camper’s parent/guardian is contacted by the Camp Director to pick up their camper immediately.

# Falsely Reported Emergency Calls and Fire Alarms

Any camper setting off a fire alarm, fire extinguisher, tampering with smoke detector or using the phone to falsely report an emergency to 911 will be subject to disciplinary action.

# Fighting

Camp does not tolerate campers who harm other campers; whether it is physical or verbal fighting, including degrading, demeaning, threatening other campers or staff, or making fun of others. Any camper involved in fighting is subject to discipline and may be sent home.

# Gambling

No games of chance may be played on the camp property or at any off-site camp function. Playing cards for money or exchange of personal items, dice playing, or any other form of gambling is not allowed at camp. Campers who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action.

# Gum Chewing

Gum chewing contributes to higher maintenance costs, creates unsanitary conditions, and has a negative affect on camp decorum, other people’s clothes, shoes, and hair. For these reasons, gum chewing at camp is not allowed at any time.

# Internet Social Networking & Blogging Policy

In general, Camp views social networking sites, personal Websites, and Weblogs positively and respects the right of campers to use them as a medium of self expression. If a camper chooses to identify himself or herself as a camper at our camp on such Internet venues, some readers of such Web sites or blogs may view the camper as a representative or spokesperson of the camp. In light of this possibility, Camp requires, as a condition of participation in the camp, that campers observe the following guidelines when referring to the camp, its programs or activities, its campers, and/or staff, in a blog or on a Web site.

1. Campers must be respectful in all communications and blogs related to or referencing the camp, its staff, and other campers.
2. Campers must not use obscenities, profanity, or vulgar language.
3. Campers must not use blogs or personal Web sites to harass, bully, or intimidate other campers or staff. Behaviors that constitute harassment and bullying include, but are not limited to, comments that are derogatory with respect to race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, color, or disability; sexually suggestive, humiliating, or demeaning comments; and threats to stalk, haze, or physically injure another person.
4. Campers must not use blogs or personal Web sites to disparage the camp, other campers, or staff.
5. Campers must not use blogs or personal Web sites to discuss engaging in conduct that is prohibited by Camp’s policies, including, but not limited to, the use of alcohol and drugs, sexual behavior, sexual harassment, and bullying.

Any camper found to be in violation of any portion of this Social Networking and Blogging Policy will be subject to immediate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from Camp.

# Intimidation

Any camper found to be harassing, making fun of, or intimidating another camper is subject to disciplinary actions, and may be sent home.

# Obscenity

Obscene, profane or vulgar language; written, oral, or expressed by symbols is not tolerated. Being respectful to staff and other campers is important and expected. Any camper who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

# Search and Seizure

Camp reserves the right to search a staff or camper’s property, either by themselves or with the aid of law enforcement officials, if the camp staff deems the search is necessary to maintain the integrity of the camp’s environment and/or the protection of the other staff or campers. These searches may or may not include the use of specially trained dogs.

# Stealing

Stealing is a violation of law. A camper who becomes involved in a theft of camp property, another camper’s belongings, or a staff person’s belongings is subject to disciplinary action. Stealing may result in a camper being sent home early from camp. The Camp Director contacts parents/guardian immediately.

# Values-Based Camp

Camp seeks to provide safe, fun, creative and challenging camping opportunities that foster individual and family growth in areas of self-worth, responsibility, self-expression, independence, leadership, environmental awareness and values. Our mission and core values are the foundation for all that we do here at Camp. Both govern our day to day life and are the basis for all rules and requirements established at camp. It is important that all campers and staff strive to teach, practice, and model the values Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility each day.

# Vandalism

Campers involved in vandalism or malicious mischief either against the camp property or against another camper or staff are disciplined immediately. Vandalism includes any kind of graffiti on camp walls, beds, bathroom stalls, etc. Violation of this policy may result in the camper being sent home early from camp. Payment to repair any damage accrued as a result of the vandalism is the responsibility of the camper’s parent/guardian.

# Visitors

We ask that parents visit only during the designated times on check-in or check-out. While Camp is an open environment, well-meaning visits disrupt camp programs.

# Behavior Management Policy

We believe that every child has the right to experience camp and all it has to offer. We believe in setting limits and explaining the boundaries for all participants. When these boundaries are tested, we use specific procedures to help the camper to continue his/her experience at camp. On the first day of camp our staff will go over the cabin expectations and ground rules of camp life. Campers have the opportunity to ask questions about policies and rules, so that everyone is clear about expectations.

Procedures We Follow:

1. The camper’s Counselor will speak with the camper and check whether the camper understands why the behavior is unacceptable and knows what the consequences are. The Counselor will restate the desired behavior, with clear consequences given for not following the desired behavior. The removal of a camper from a problem situation in a time out may be a consequence in this first stage. Removal gives the camper time to calm down, reflect on his/her actions and the staff a chance to discuss with the camper what happened.
2. If the behavior is repeated, the Counselor will let the camper know that this is still unacceptable and will then involve the Program Director and/or Camp Director. At this stage, Camp will contact the parent or guardian of the camper to make them aware of the situation and to ask for cooperation and insight.
3. If the behavior persists, the Camp Director will determine if the camper should remain at camp or be sent home. Parents will need to make transportation arrangements, and there are no refunds for campers sent home for behavioral reasons.
4. There are some actions that may warrant immediate removal from camp. These actions include, but are not limited to; smoking or using tobacco products, using alcohol or illegal drugs, stealing, or endangering their own safety or the safety of staff or campers.

This discipline policy attempts to let campers know that while they are cared for, certain behaviors are not acceptable in our camp setting. This policy also involves the parents before the problems escalate, and invites them to be a part of the solution.

# Severe Behavior

While Camp strives to be all-inclusive campers with chemical dependency, severe emotional disturbances or violent behavior may not be able to participate effectively. We can refer you to facilities and camps that are equipped to handle these special needs. If your child has severe behavior problems we ask that you talk with the Camp Director to assess how Camp may serve you and your child best.

This form is to be signed and returned to the Music Academy of Acadiana’s office. Your signature will affirm that you have read the this form and fully understand all of the Camp policies stated therein.

I have read and discussed Camp’s resident camp behavior policy with my camper. We both agree to adhere to the policies and understand that the refund policy states: no refunds for campers going home for disciplinary action or homesickness.

I DO HEREBY AFFIRM THAT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have read the parent’s packet.

CAMPER’S NAME PARENT /GUARDIAN NAME

We have read the camp expectations and fully understand the policies stated therein. I have read and discussed the camp behavior policy with my camper. We both agree to adhere to the policies and understand that the refund policy states: no refunds for campers going home for disciplinary action or homesickness.

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PLEASE PRINT NAME OF CHILD DATE

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CAMPER’S SIGNATURE Date

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PRINT NAME OF PARENT / GUARDIAN DATE

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