

## Affidavit Regarding Counselor Conduct and Camper-Counselor Contact

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Guidelines for the discipline of Children:

I understand and accept the following:

1. Counselors may, under no circumstances, hit a child.
2. Counselors may not use abusive or derogatory language with campers.
3. Counselors need to ask for help.
4. A staff member who encounters a particularly difficult child will seek the assistance of a supervisor or administrative staff.
5. In all dealings with campers, counselors should strive to *respond* as opposed to *react* to children.

### Guidelines for Camper- Counselor contact:

I understand and accept that when touching campers, the following guidelines should be followed:

- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> On the hand, shoulder or upper back;
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> Never against a child's will (unless in the case of clear and present danger of the child);
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> Never against a child's discomfort, whether expressed verbally or non-verbally;
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> In the company of other adults
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> Never when it would have the effect of over-stimulating a child;
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> Never in a place on a child's body that is normally covered by a bathing suit, unless for a clear medical necessity, and then *only with supervision of another adult*.

### Counselor Responsibility:

- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> I understand and accept that I am a **care-taker of children**.
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> I understand that there is a clear **power difference** between myself and campers (money, mobility, authority, experience, knowledge, different set of rules).
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> I understand that inappropriate conduct with campers- physically and psychologically can have a lasting and negative impact on campers.

### Guidelines for staff:

I understand and accept the following:

- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> There is no hazing of campers by campers or counselors;
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> Campers will not be subjected to initiation rites that are abusive in any manner;
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> Campers will not be alone with a counselor in his or her quarters;
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> A staff member will under no circumstances share a bed with a camper;
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> Counselors will set limits with children who "cling or hang on them";
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> Counselors will not give back rubs or massage campers;
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> Tickling or teasing a camper to the point where the camper is out of control is not acceptable;
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> Pillow fights or wrestling matches and the like can become over-stimulating in short order and need to be limited or avoided;
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> Romantic lives of counselors can, under no circumstance, be shared with campers;
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> Counselors should stay out of tents after lights out at night unless there is an urgent need;
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> Male staff working with adolescent female campers need to be aware of the tendency for this group to develop hidden or secret fantasies and crushes;
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> *Whatever is done with campers should be done in broad daylight, preferably with company!*

### Other Instructions:

I agree to the following:

- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> To watch for signs of stress in myself and others as a way of maintaining a safe environment at camp.
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> To help other staff who seem at risk for hurting or abusing campers.
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> To alert administrative personnel to dangerous or "at risk" situations between campers and staff.
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> To ask for more supervision, intervention or support if needed.
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> To seek help myself if I feel at risk for hurting, over stimulating or abusing a camper.

By signing this document I am attesting to the fact that I have read over, understand and accept the rules, guidelines and standards of conduct outlined in this document.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date