



Summer Discovery Camp Behavior Management Policy

Summer Discovery Camp at the EcoTarium advocates a camp behavior management policy with an emphasis on positive reinforcement, redirection, prevention, and the development of self-discipline for campers. Rules are established for the safety of campers, staff and the public and to ensure that we have a common code of conduct at camp. Discipline and guidance shall be consistent and based upon an understanding of the individual needs and development of a child. The EcoTarium shall direct discipline to the goal of maximizing the growth and development of campers and for protecting the group and individuals within camp. If a child is unsuccessful in meeting the behavioral expectations of our program, a parent conference is arranged. If the behavior continues this could result in dismissal from camp.

Corporal punishment, including spanking, is prohibited. No camper shall be subjected to cruel or severe punishment, humiliation, or verbal abuse. No camper shall be denied food, water, or shelter as a form of punishment. No child shall be punished for soiling or wetting themselves or for not using the toilet. A child will be restrained only in the event of possible injury to the child or other children in the group.

Behavior Guidelines and Expectations:

All campers are expected to demonstrate a mutual respect for each other and for the staff. In order to provide the safest environment possible, we require strict adherence to all camp rules and policies.

Overall Camp Rules:

1. Be safe
 - a. Keep yourself safe
 - b. Be safe with others
 - c. Be safe with equipment and supplies
2. Be respectful
 - a. To all campers, staff, and junior counselors
 - b. To all museum visitors
 - c. To museum property and camp supplies
 - d. To the environment
3. Have fun

Summer Discovery Camp practices a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR HITTING. Campers who repeatedly strike other campers or counselors will minimally be sent home for the day. Summer Discovery Camp also practices ZERO TOLERANCE FOR BULLYING. Harassing or bullying other campers will initiate a parent conference and may result in camper being sent home for at least one day. Camper fees are non-refundable if a camper is sent home for disciplinary reasons.

Camper Groups will go into further details about these rules and guidelines with their counselor. Camper group rules will cater to each age group.

Discipline Procedure:

When a camper does not follow the behavior guidelines and camp rules, we will take the following action steps as behavior problems progress:

1. Staff will redirect camper to more appropriate behavior
2. If inappropriate behavior continues, the camp counselor and camper will discuss and be reminded of behavior guidelines and camp rules.
3. If the camper's behavior does not meet expectations and is affecting the experience of other campers, he/she will receive a "strike one" warning. The camp director will be notified, as well as the camper's parents.
4. If inappropriate behavior continues, he/she will receive a "strike two" warning, in which case the camp director will notify the parents and arrange for a meeting.
5. If any acts of violence or severe disrespect occurs, an incident report may need to be completed.
6. If inappropriate behavior continues, as a final action step the camper may be dismissed from camp.
7. If a camper leaves the EcoTarium property without permission of camp staff, 911 will be called.
8. All strike incidents and/or immediate dismissals will be kept on record.

Camper Behaviors resulting in Immediate Dismissal and/or Automatic Strike 2:

Please notice in the following chart that there are some actions that require immediate dismissal from the program, as well as actions that result in an automatic "strike 2". Some behaviors and actions will result in an automatic strike two, regardless of whether the camper has received a "strike one".

There are some cases where an immediate dismissal will occur, regardless of the camper receiving strikes one or two. Some actions are situation dependent, and we call this category "camp director's decision" and it will be the camp director's decision whether the act will result in an automatic strike 2 or immediate dismissal. An arrow indicates that an exception may be made to move a behavior/action to another category.

