



BELVIDERE FAMILY YMCA KIDS' CARE SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

In general, our camp holds a positive view of technology, the internet, and most social media sites. Our programming structure allows campers limited access to personal technology throughout the day. As a result, our camp respects the right of campers to use them as a medium of self-expression and communication. But, we also acknowledge the dangers of technology and social media when used for negative reasons and in negative ways.

In light of this, our camp requires, as a condition of participation in the camp, that campers observe the following guidelines when using technology at camp and when referring to the camp, its programs or activities, its campers, and/or employees, in social media posts and communications.

- Campers **MAY NOT** use their electronic devices to take picture or record audio/video.
- Campers **MAY NOT** use Snap Chat or Music.ly while at camp.
- Campers must be respectful in all communications and posts related to or referencing the camp, camp employees, or other campers.
- Campers must not use obscenities, profanity, or vulgar language on social media, texts, messages, and communications.
- Campers must not use social media or personal accounts to disparage the camp, other campers, or employees of the camp.
- Campers must not use blogs, social media, texts, or other websites to harass, bully, or intimidate other campers or employees of the camp. 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; suggestive, humiliating or degrading comments; and threats to shun, stalk, haze, or physically injure another person (camper or camp employee).
- Campers must not use blogs or personal websites to discuss engaging in conduct that is prohibited by camp 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 Media Policy will be subject to immediate disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from camp and before/after school care.

Camp is meant to be a fun, safe and welcoming place for all. We need your help to keep technology usage in the spirit of our YMCA core values: Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, and Caring.

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Resources- Kids and their Online Activity

Kids with access to electronic devices spend a large amount of time engaging in online activities playing video games, posting photos, watching videos, and communicating with each other through social media sites like Instagram and Snap Chat. While these activities can be a healthy and positive experience, as advocates for children and their safety, we recommend that you as parents & guardians be knowledgeable about their online activities. While your children may push back against your effort to supervise them or see their online profiles, we also know that children listen to their parent's advice and concern. Below you will find resources for further help or information.

Safety Tips for Kids Online

- 1) Avoid giving out your last name, phone number, address, name of your school, where you hang out or sports teams you are on.
- 2) Use the privacy features on your service.
- 3) Avoid meeting people in person who you have met on the Net that you don't know. If you do agree to meet someone, let your parents know and take some friends along.
- 4) Be careful of what you post online—pics and text are open for the world to see. Teens seem to forget this!
- 5) Remember that anyone can pose as anyone else online! Unless you are positive of the person's identity, be skeptical

What to Tell Your Child If They Are Threatened Online

- 1) Don't respond or retaliate. Doing so may only make matters worse or get you into trouble.
- 2) If you can, save the message on your hard drive and print out a copy. Then close the message or program.
- 3) Tell your parent or trusted adult.
- 4) If it is someone from camp, call the camp director.
- 5) If necessary, call your Internet service provider.
- 6) If necessary, call the local police (like in cases of a threat on your life, a sexual advance, etc.)

Other Resources

- www.stopbullyingnow.com: Information from a bullying prevention expert regarding what you can do to stop bullying.
- www.stopbullying.gov: More info on bullying prevention.
- www.eyesonbullying.org: Info on bullying as it occurs in the camp and child care setting.
- www.common sense media.org: Information for parents about social media.
- www.internetmatters.org: Information for parents about sharing safely on social media.
- www.kidshealth.org (Teaching Kids to Be Smart About Social Media): Tips for parents on how to teach their kids to use social media safely.
- www.connectsafely.org (Guides): Guides for parents about specific social media sites and other topics.
- www.stopcyberbullying.org: A website related to cyber bullying prevention.