

PARK CAMPS

Thrive On!

THE PARK SCHOOL of BALTIMORE

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS AND PARENT AGREEMENT

PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

At Park Camps, our goal is to provide a safe, inclusive, and joyful environment where campers can explore, learn, play, and grow. We value respect, cooperation, curiosity, and personal responsibility, and we aim to foster a sense of belonging and community. Campers, staff, and families all play a role in creating this positive environment.

This agreement is designed to make our behavioral expectations clear, outline how staff respond to issues, and specify behaviors or needs that may affect camp participation.

CAMPER BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Campers are expected to:

- Treat all campers, staff, and visitors with respect and kindness.
- Follow directions and respect the authority of all camp staff.
- Engage in activities safely, responsibly, and cooperatively.
- Participate in a spirit of inclusion, supporting the rights and feelings of others.
- Demonstrate honesty, integrity, and accountability in all actions.
- Communicate respectfully and resolve conflicts in constructive ways.
- Follow camp rules regarding safety, technology, property, and personal conduct.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

The following behaviors are not tolerated at Park Camps and may result in disciplinary action or removal:

- Physical aggression toward others, including hitting, kicking, biting, or pushing.
- Threats, intimidation, or bullying of any kind.
- Deliberate damage to property, personal belongings, or camp facilities.
- Use or possession of illegal substances, alcohol, tobacco, or weapons.
- Inappropriate language, gestures, or behavior that is disrespectful or offensive.
- Repeated failure to follow staff directions or camp rules.
- Any behavior that compromises the safety, dignity, or well-being of campers or staff.

RESPONSE TO BEHAVIORAL ISSUES

When a behavioral issue arises, staff will respond in a consistent, fair, and supportive manner:

1. **Immediate Intervention:** Staff will address the behavior promptly to ensure safety and maintain the positive environment.
2. **Restorative Approach:** Staff will help the camper reflect on the behavior, repair harm if possible, and support reintegration into camp activities.
3. **Communication with Parents/Guardians:** Parents will be informed of incidents and any ongoing concerns.
4. **Progressive Consequences:** Depending on severity and repetition, consequences may include:
 - Time-out or temporary removal from activities.
 - Behavior reflection or mediation sessions.
 - Limited participation in specific activities.
 - Final-step removal from camp if the behavior persists or is severe.

BEHAVIORS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE OR FINAL-STEP REMOVAL

Certain behaviors are considered serious enough that they may lead to immediate or near-immediate removal from camp. These include:

- Severe or repeated physical aggression toward others.
- Threats of violence, harassment, or intimidation.
- Major property damage.
- Possession or use of illegal substances, weapons, or prohibited items.
- Any behavior that puts the safety of campers or staff at significant risk.

BEHAVIORAL AND LEARNING PROFILES

At Park Camps, we strive to create a safe, inclusive, and engaging environment for all campers. Our camp staff are trained to support a wide range of learning styles, social-emotional needs, and group dynamics. We can provide:

- Small-group support and guidance within regular camp activities.
- Positive behavior reinforcement and strategies for emotional regulation.
- Staff attention to encourage participation, cooperation, and engagement.

However, for the safety and well-being of all campers, there are certain levels of support that we are **unable to provide**:

- **One-on-one, individualized supervision** outside of standard camp ratios.
- **Intensive behavioral interventions** that require constant staff support.
- **Ongoing or repeated physical intervention** to manage behaviors.
- **Specialized therapeutic or educational services** (academic, speech, OT, etc.) that cannot be delivered within the standard camp setting.

Campers must be able to participate safely and independently within the context of our regular camp groups and staff ratios. Families are responsible for communicating any needs ahead of time so that we can determine whether our program is an appropriate fit.

Note: If a camper's needs exceed what can be safely supported by our staff, the camp reserves the right to deny enrollment or withdraw the camper from participation.

PARK SCHOOL FAMILIES

The Camp Office maintains a consistent and collaborative partnership with the school's Lower School Administrative office to ensure we are continuously discussing and implementing the most effective strategies to positively support every student's needs. Should a student experience behavioral challenges that require a coordinated response, the Camp Director will consult directly with Lower School Administration to discuss shared insights and develop a unified, supportive action plan.

HEALTH SUITE INFORMATION

As the camp nurse or athletic trainer, our primary responsibility is to support the health, safety, and well-being of all campers during the day. While we strive to provide high-quality care, it is important to understand the guidelines and limitations of the services that can be offered in the camp setting.

The Health Suite is designed to provide first aid, emergency care, medication administration, and assessment of illness or injury. However, we are not able to provide extensive, continuous, or one-to-one medical care. Services such as long-term monitoring, complex medical interventions, or ongoing treatments that require specialized equipment or prolonged supervision must be managed by families and outside healthcare providers.

If a student's medical needs exceed what can safely and appropriately be provided in the camp setting, we will work collaboratively with parents/guardians to ensure the student receives the appropriate level of care. This may include families arranging for necessary one-to-one services or support to meet the student's medical needs.