POLICY NAME: Cell Phone and Personal Electronic Use at Summer Camp

DEPARTMENT: Camping

Policy

It is the policy of Young Life to limit the use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices (iPods, tablets, games, etc.) at summer camp in order to minimize distractions in the proclamation of the gospel.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to explain the means by which cell phone and personal electronic use is to be limited at summer camp.

Procedure

When Young Life leaders take kids to camp, they are purposefully taking them out of their normal environment and into one free of distractions in order to clearly hear the gospel message. Individuals who serve at camp are committing to provide a distraction free environment for the gospel proclamation. Mission leadership has affirmed that limiting the use of cell phones and personal electronics at camp is an essential aspect of eliminating distractions. Camper cell phones and electronics will be collected and stored at camp, and individuals serving at camp will commit to fasting from cell phone and other electronic device use for the duration of their assignment as described below.

The use of electronic devices at summer camp will be limited as described below.

1. **Campers** – Cell phones and electronics will be collected upon arrival and stored in a secure location for the duration of the camp week. Devices will be returned to campers upon departure. Trip leaders should communicate this policy to campers and parents prior to the camp trip. Parents should be given the camp phone number in order to contact their child in the event of an emergency. For the trip to/from camp and as a secondary emergency contact while at camp, parents should be given the trip leader’s cell phone number.
2. **Leaders** – Leaders may keep their cell phones and use them in the leaders lounge or camp offices only. Leaders may not use cell phones for any purpose in any other location on camp.

3. **Work Crew** – Cell phones and electronics will be collected upon arrival and stored in a secure location for the duration of the work crew assignment. Once a week during the assignment, cell phones will be made available to the work crew to be used in the work crew dorm only for a predetermined period of time. The cell phones will be collected and stored again each week. Electronics will be returned to work crew upon departure. Parents of work crew will be notified in advance of their child’s limited cell phone access.

4. **Summer Staff** – Summer staff may keep and use their cell phones in their bunk room only. Summer staff may not use cell phones in any other location on camp including the public lobby areas of the summer staff dorm. All other electronic devices will be collected and stored for the duration of the assignment.

5. **Assigned Team** – Assigned team members should use the utmost discretion when using cell phones on camp, preferably limiting their cell phone use to the assigned team housing and camp offices.

6. **Camp Staff** – Camp staff should use the utmost discretion when using cell phones on camp, when possible limiting their cell phone use to the camp offices.

7. **Camp Interns** – Interns may keep and use their cell phones and other devices inside the intern housing. Interns may use cell phones on camp for business purposes only, using the utmost discretion and when possible limiting their cell phone use to the camp offices.

Cell phone signals vary from camp to camp. If cell phone reception is not available inside the staff and volunteer housing, the camp director and camp manager have discretion to allow the use of cell phones in accordance with this policy immediately outside the housing, as long as cell phones are not being used in the presence of campers.

Use of smartphones at camp must be in accordance with the Camp Crisis Communications via Social Media Policy (COM-001), ensuring that information about critical incidents at camp is not distributed inappropriately via social media, text messages, email.

The adult guest host and adult guests will be asked to respect this policy and use the utmost discretion when using cell phones and other electronics, preferably limiting their use to the adult guest lodge.

**Distribution**

This policy will be distributed to camp managers and the U.S. Mission Field Team.

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April 9, 2013