

SAFE CAMP POLICY

COMMITMENT TO SAFETY

Every camper, staff and volunteer has the right to be safe at camp. Silver Lake will make every reasonable effort to provide a safe and nurturing environment for all at camp.

Maintenance and other staff regularly check for potential hazards. Kitchen staff are trained in safe food handling practices. Staff are required to have certifications and training appropriate for activities they are leading and all summer staff are required to have current First Aid training.

From time-to-time certain camper behaviours require clear and consistent consequences, dealt with by incorporating both strategies at camp and supportive reinforcement at home.

Anti-Bullying Commitment

•Bullying behaviour is “an ongoing misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that causes physical and/or psychological harm” (national Australian definition of bullying). We will not tolerate this kind of behaviour either between campers, adults and campers, or adults. Our zero tolerance policy on bullying will be reviewed with each cabin at the beginning of each camp session. At this time campers should be encouraged to report any bullying that they are subjected to or witness. Meaningful dialogue at camp and support from involved families will aid in achieving an effective resolution.

Police Checks

All Silver Lake staff and volunteers are required to have police checks before working at Silver Lake.

Water Safety

Campers are scheduled to take a swim test when they come to the Silver Lake waterfront. If a camper does not pass the swim test, swimming is only permitted in the shallow end of the pond while onsite or with a lifejacket on at all times when on outtrips.

Campers are very well supervised during swim times by staff who are certified lifeguards. Lifejackets are mandatory for all campers & staff while using canoes, kayaks or paddleboats.

Search Process

Silver Lake Mennonite Camp has a well-developed search process that is practiced during staff orientation and a minimum of once per session. Staff are well-aware of their responsibilities during a search procedure.

When a Camper Becomes Sick or Injured at Camp

All Silver Lake staff are First Aid Certified and are trained to address routine illness or injuries (upset tummy, headaches, scraped knee etc.) Parents will be notified if the Camp Director feels it is necessary for the camper to be picked up early due to his/her illness or injury. In the event of a more serious injury or illness, a camper parent will be called. Vehicles are also on site to transport a child to a nearby health care center when needed.