

DRAFT: Camper Code of Conduct to be reviewed, revised and approved by July 1, 2023

SLMC strives to provide a rich and wonderful camping experience for all campers.

To accomplish this goal, campers are expected to behave appropriately and promote a safe, fun, and healthy environment through productive participation. Silver Lake values healthy community living, personal discovery, growing outdoor skills and environmental caring.

Every camper must agree to follow the Camper Code of Conduct before arriving at camp to be part of creating a safe and nurturing environment for everyone!

RESPECT

The guiding principle that every camper must follow can be summed up with the word "Respect."

- Respect yourself. Take appropriate care of yourself (personal hygiene, getting sufficient sleep, dressing appropriately)
- Respect the environment and camp facilities. SLMC has over 150 acres of beautiful habitat. We want campers to be stewards of this area for future generations.
- Respect others. Be respectful, cooperative and will contribute positively to the experience of fellow campers.
 - Be careful and considerate that my actions will not hurt another camper's feelings or hurt them physically, either intentionally or accidentally.
 - Show respect to Silver Lake staff, and cooperate fully with their instructions. Follow directions!
 - Respect the rights and beliefs of others, and treat others with courtesy and consideration.
 - Respect the property of others including camp property and personal items of others.

BEHAVIOR

AS A CAMPER I WILL...

- Follow all guidelines, policies and philosophies of SLMC as described on the SLMC website and in information I receive from camp.
- Conduct myself responsibly understanding that horseplay, inappropriate touching, unwelcome teasing/bullying or other unkind behaviors are not allowed and will not be tolerated.
- Communicate appropriately, not using foul language or gestures, harsh words or raise my voice.
- Cooperate with camp staff and follow their instructions including rules set out.
- Practice sun safety by wearing: sunscreen throughout the day, protective clothing, a hat and sunglasses with UV protection, stay hydrated with water, and seek shade during the hottest/sunniest times of the day.
- Wear my life jacket at all times in all water crafts.
- Help keep my cabin and the surrounding environment clean and put all litter in the trashcans.
- Stay in my cabin after lights out at night, except if a washroom trip is necessary or there is an emergency. If so, I will let my counsellor know. If I am a younger camper I will go to the washroom with a buddy.
- Have good hygiene, brushing my teeth and changing my clothes regularly.
- Stay with my counselors, unless I have special permission not to be with them.
- Talk to someone if I feel unsafe.
- Have lots of FUN and a GREAT time.

I WILL NOT...

- Break any laws
- Bully, or put down other campers or staff.
- Leave Silver Lake Mennonite Camp unless under direct staff supervision
- Deliberately hurt anybody's feelings. Including pulling pranks on others which could cause someone to feel offended or unsafe.
- Transport, sell, purchase or consume tobacco products, alcohol, marijuana or illegal substances of any kind or misuse prescription drugs while at Silver Lake Mennonite Camp.
- Use foul or abusive language (this includes language of a sexually explicit nature).
- Use any racist, homophobic, transphobic, or any other hateful language
- Discriminate against any other person on the basis of gender, race, sexual orientation, background or religion
- Have weapons or any implement that staff deem dangerous or potentially dangerous
- Behave inappropriately including bullying, teasing, harassment, swearing, acts of aggression, pranks, practical jokes or disrespect for other people or the environment. What may seem harmless to you may have lasting emotional or physical consequences for others.
- Use cell phones at camp
- Steal or borrow other people's possessions without their consent will not be tolerated.
- Vandalize or damage to camp property and equipment including to cabins, bunks, window screens, doors, washrooms, classrooms, dining hall, any other buildings, signs, program equipment and including the natural environment. You will be held responsible for the cost of repair or replacement, including labour costs.
- Deface camp property in any way. Any graffiti including writing, drawing, carving or painting names/pictures etc. on bunk beds, furniture, walls, cabins, or any other buildings are all examples of this and will not be tolerated. You will be held responsible for cleanup, repair or replacement.
- Tamper with any safety devices including smoke alarms and fire extinguishers is a serious offence and will not be tolerated.
- Visit another cabin during the day or evening without my counsellor saying it's okay (this is to insure security and that campers will be supervised at all times).

SAFETY

- All campers must be familiar with SLMC's safety policies, found online at slmc.ca
- Campers must wear closed toe/closed-heel shoes at all times.
- Campers must pay attention to their surroundings and use care in all activities.
- Campers must adhere to all safety rules and regulations given for each camp activity.
- Weapons, look-alike weapons, or objects that may be used to threaten, intimidate, or harm others or to damage property may not be brought to camp.
- Any clothing with inappropriate slogans, pictures, art and/or other written messages that do not promote a healthy recreational environment (i.e. messages depicting drugs, sex, violence, racism or language considered obscene, disrespectful or judgmental) must NOT be worn.

GENERAL

- Campers are to wear appropriate clothing to camp each day.
- Campers to have FUN, but not at the expense of others.
- Campers are encouraged to participate in all activities to the best of their ability.

CODE OF CONDUCT ACCOUNTABILITY

We expect campers to act respectfully at all times when they are at camp. Campers are to behave in a mature, responsible way and respect the rights and dignity of others.

Campers are to take responsibility for their actions and respect themselves, each other, camp equipment and the environment.

Campers should talk to a counsellor or any camp staff if they are uncomfortable with any experiences or need assistance while at camp.

Conduct Procedures

When a camper does not follow SLMC's behavioural guidelines, Silver Lake will take the following action steps as behaviour problems progress.

1. Staff will redirect the camper to more appropriate behavior. Staff are expected to use the SLMC conflict resolution model to work through difficulties and are required to report bullying to the Directors. In the event of a report, the staff filing the complaint fills out an incident report form and give it to the Directors. If any emotional, physical or sexual abuse/harassment has occurred, this must be reported immediately to the Directors who will follow the procedures outlined in the Abuse Prevention Policy. Other issues that are deemed to be severe enough to warrant it will move directly to step 4. In other cases:
2. If inappropriate behaviour continues, the camper will be reminded of behaviour guidelines and camp rules, and the camper will be asked to decide on action steps to correct his/her behavior and a consequence outlined and the staff member may place the camper on a strike system whereby each strike will be grounds for discussion with the Directors regarding the incident. The third strike is grounds for dismissal. The Directors will review each case and follow the conflict resolution model to try and achieve reconciliation.
3. If inappropriate behaviour continues, the parents/guardian of the camper will be contacted and notified of the behaviour incident. From which the directors will ask the parent/guardian for any strategies that work for the camper
4. If strategies do not help in the matter as a final action step the camper may be dismissed from camp

Camper Commitment:

I understand that if I am having trouble following this code of conduct, the following could happen:

- I may have a meeting with my counsellor or one of the camp directors.
- A staff member might call my parents to discuss my behaviour.
- I may be asked to carry out a suitable consequence decided by staff. (An example of a consequence is being part of an apology process).
- If my behavior is hurtful to myself, others or camp property, I may have to go home early from camp and may be sent home immediately with no refund or credit on camp fees.

- SLMC has a Zero Tolerance policy towards physical violence and non-physical bullying/aggression. Any camper causing harm, or intending to do so to anyone will be sent home without refund.

I have read the above CAMPER'S CODE OF CONDUCT. I agree to adhere to all of the above to ensure that my camp experience and the experience of other campers is a positive one. I understand that failure to adhere to these rules may result in my dismissal from the program.

Camper's Signature _____ Date _____

I understand and certify that my child's participation in the Summer Day Camp and its activities are completely voluntary. I recognize and have instructed my child in the importance of knowing and abiding by the camp's CODE OF CONDUCT for the safety of all camp participants

Parent/Guardian's Name & Signature _____ Date _____