



Aleinu Guidelines for Counselor-Camper Contact

Name _____ Camp _____
(Please Print)

To achieve the goal of establishing a safe environment, all camp counselors are expected to follow the Aleinu Guidelines for Counselor-Camper Contact.

GENERAL CAMP CONDUCT STANDARDS

Our CAMP is committed to providing a safe and appropriate environment for all campers and camp employees. Parents entrust their children to us. To support their trust, camp staff is committed to establishing a safe camp environment for every child's physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. As part of my responsibilities:

- I understand and accept that I am a **caretaker of children**.
- I understand that there is a clear **power difference** between me and my campers (for example, money, mobility, authority, experience, knowledge, rules)
- I understand that inappropriate touching (see Contact and Behavioral Guidelines below) of a camper can have severe emotional and psychological effects on that camper that can last a lifetime.
- I understand that verbal abuse (see Contact and Behavioral Guidelines below) can have long lasting emotional and psychological effects on children.
- I will watch for signs of stress in myself and others as a way of maintaining a safe camp environment and I will ask for support when needed.
- I will alert senior supervisory or administrative camp personnel to dangerous or "at-risk" situations between campers and staff, campers and campers, or staff and staff as indicated below.

CONTACT GUIDELINES

The Aleinu Guidelines for Counselor-Camper Contact place an emphasis on unwanted touch and exerting any form of verbal, physical or inappropriate psychological influence or control on campers and/or staff. Violation of these guidelines is not tolerated. Consistent with its commitment to maintain a safe environment, our camp will conduct a thorough investigation, report any legally mandated violations to appropriate authorities and take necessary steps to counsel or remove individuals who violate these principles.

- A counselor may, under no circumstances, hit a child.
- A counselor may touch a child only on the hand, shoulder or upper back, with their permission.
- A counselor may never touch a child against the child's will (unless in the case of clear and present danger).
- A counselor may only touch a child in the presence of other adults.
- A counselor may never touch a child in a place on a child's body that is normally covered by a bathing suit, unless there is a clear medical necessity, and then **only with supervision by another adult**.

- In case of a medical emergency, the counselor must use his discretion for the benefit of the child.
- A counselor should not hold a camper on his/her lap.

BEHAVIORAL GUIDELINES

Proper counselor/camper, camper/camper and counselor/counselor interaction and behavior are very important. We are role models to our campers and our camp is held as an example in the community. Therefore, these standards include conduct inside and outside our camp during camp hours, after-camp activities and/or all private interaction with campers. I understand that:

- Campers will not be subjected to “initiation” rites, tricks, or practical jokes that are embarrassing or abusive in any manner.
- A counselor may not use abusive or derogatory language with campers.
- There will be double coverage of campers during changing times.
- Younger children should be encouraged to change their own clothes as much as possible. Counselors should not change their own clothes in front of campers.
- A staff member will NOT share a bed or sleeping bag with a camper or another counselor. Campers will sleep in their own beds and not with other campers.
- Staff may NOT be alone with campers in private or secluded areas.
- Creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and modesty will create a safe camp environment for everyone.
- Counselors will set limits with children who “cling” or hang onto them.
- Counselors will not give back rubs (see Contact Guidelines below).
- Tickling or teasing a camper to the point where that camper is uncomfortable or out of control is unacceptable.
- Pillow fights, wrestling matches or other zealous physical contests between campers can be over-stimulating and need to be limited and carefully supervised.
- If I feel too stressed to deal with campers in a healthy manner I will ask for help.
- If I encounter a particularly difficult child I will seek the assistance of a supervisory or administrative staff member.
- Campers will use the buddy system when entering bathrooms, either with the counselor or with another camper.
- Campers must stay with counselors at all times, and counselors must know where their campers are at all times. Campers may never be left unattended.

Any concerns, suspicions or allegations of abuse, harassment or violation of behavioral standards should be promptly discussed with or reported to the **CAMP DIRECTOR**.

By signing this document, I confirm that I have read, understand, and accept the rules, guidelines and standards of conduct in this document.

Signature

Date