

## **Guidelines for Our Time Together at Highland Retreat**

Highland Retreat desires your child to experience a Christian camp community in which they are safe and can grow spiritually and socially. A healthy community has clear expectations, guidelines, and corrective actions to maintain respect and a positive environment for all. We will be communicating these concepts with your camper their first day of camp and want you as a parent to be aware of them too.

We encourage you to review and discuss behavioral expectations (including those listed below) with your child using age-appropriate language prior to camp.

### **Expectations**

**Behavior** – We treat and speak to others with respect. We seek to build up rather than tear down.

**Bullying** – Address staff and fellow campers with kindness, respect, and a willingness to hear their story. Anticipate making new friends who will be different from you. We commit to avoid bullying, which includes teasing, threatening to harm others, or harming others. We will not play pranks or practical jokes, since they may come across as bullying and can be hurtful.

**Cabins** – Campers are not permitted to go into any cabin except their own.

**Dress** – Clothing should be appropriate for an active week of camp activities. The best wardrobe for camp is t-shirts, shorts that are at least mid-thigh length, and pants. In some camp activities, you may be wearing a harness or be lifted up in the air; we want you to be comfortable and prevent embarrassment during activities like these. Sandals with heel straps and sneakers are ideal for walking in the woods and active recreational games. Crocs, flip flops, and bare feet aren't sturdy or supportive for camp terrain. However, creek shoes may be worn in the creek. No clothing advertising alcohol, tobacco products, illicit or illegal activities, or crude jokes.

**Drugs** – All prescription and over-the-counter drugs must be turned in to the camp nurse on Sunday upon arrival at camp. Use or possession of recreational drugs, alcohol, or tobacco is prohibited. In the case of use or possession of drugs or alcohol, the camper's parents and the proper authorities will be notified and the camper will be sent home.

**Electronics** – Practice being present, making eye contact, and learning to have conversations with others this week! We are not going to use electronics, earbuds, or the internet. Electronics brought to camp will spend the week secured in the office. Campers are not permitted to have cellphones. In case of an emergency, parents may call the office (after hours, the office message will provide the active on call phone number). Campers who wish to take pictures during the week should bring a camera. Use discretion in taking and posting pictures.

**Meals** – Campers should come prepared to try the various food items our kitchen staff prepare. We can work with some medically prescribed diets but do not cater to individual food preferences. Parents should call the camp in advance with any questions/concerns about diet. Please be sure your counselor knows if you have a food allergy.

**Participation** – In order to experience all the fun camp has to offer, campers are encouraged to try all camp activities.

**PDA** – Camp is a place to build many positive relationships, but it is not a time for romance. No public or private displays of affection (PDA).

**Phone Calls** – Campers are not permitted to use a camp phone or call home without permission from the Program Director. Staff are here for you and trained in handling homesickness, peer conflict, and other difficult situations.

**Safety** – Campers will always be in groups throughout the week (with the exception of bathing or using the bathroom). For safety and accountability purposes, the “Rule of Three” shall be followed; campers should always be with at least two other people and in the vicinity of a staff member at all times. Don’t let your counselor get lost.

**Vandalism** – Campers will be held accountable for any intentional damage they cause to either the camp property or the personal property of others. Parents will be notified and will be responsible for the repair or replacement costs of the damaged property.

## **Parent/Guardian Information**

### **Managing Camper Behavior**

Highland Retreat staff will attempt to use discernment in assessing and managing camper behavior. When appropriate, consequences shall be given in relation to the severity and/or frequency of the infraction(s). Consequences may include quiet time, restriction from activity, restriction to adult supervision, extra duties, conference with the Program Director, or removal from camp. The specific management of inappropriate camper behavior will be handled by the Counselor, Counselor Team Leader, or Program Director. A parent will be notified by the Program Director if there are concerns that require disciplinary action by the Program Director. Highland Retreat does not use corporal punishment, denial of food at meals, isolation without supervision, ridicule by staff and campers, excessive exercise, or deprivation of sleep as means of discipline.

The following behaviors are considered very serious and may result in immediate expulsion from camp:

1. Behavior that is consistently interfering with the quality of the camp experience for others, including threatening or engaging in acts of physical, sexual, or verbal abuse.
2. Threatening or engaging in any activity which puts themselves, other campers, or staff in danger.
3. Leaving camp property or the immediate summer program area without staff member supervision.
4. Possession or use of: weapons or potentially harmful objects such as knives, guns, fireworks, etc.; alcohol or tobacco in any form; pornographic or suggestive literature; any illegal substance or paraphernalia.

If a camper is dismissed due to inappropriate behavior, the parent or guardian is responsible for picking up the camper within 6 hours and no refund of camper fees will be available.

## **Guidelines for Our Time Together at Highland Retreat – Admission Agreement**

### **Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement**

In signing, I acknowledge that I have read through Highland’s behavior policy and discussed it with my child. I am aware that my child is **expected to cooperate** and abide by the Behavioral Expectations listed above. If my child does not cooperate, or becomes a hindrance to the camp program, I understand that my child **could be sent home**. I agree that if any staff member has reasonable suspicion that my child possesses any substance, article, or weapon that is prohibited or may endanger someone, Highland administration may perform a search of their belongings.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Camper Name: \_\_\_\_\_