



## Cell Phone Policy at Camp

Camp One Step's mission is to provide camp experiences for kids with cancer and their families that foster joy, belonging, confidence, and lifelong friendships. Encouraging appropriate use of cell phones (including smartwatches and other electronic devices that can connect to the internet and/or are used for communication purposes) at camp is one way to achieve the mission that also ensures camper safety, comfort, and relationship building while at camp.

Appropriate use of cell phones includes:

- . Refraining from using cell phones during scheduled activities when leaders/volunteers express phone use is not allowed or when spending time in designated "phone free zones".
- . Using cellphones for appropriate and consensual pictures.
- . Sharing contact information with other campers to stay in touch after camp.
- . Listening to music and/or white noise with headphones or aloud with language/content appropriate for camp during approved times.
- . Following guidelines from Camp One Step's Camper Handbook, including the zero tolerance policy for bullying and/or cyberbullying.
- . Respecting and following instructions from leaders/volunteers when asked to put the phone away and limit phone use. *If handling a personal matter (e.g., health concern with someone back home) with your device, please communicate that with your leaders/volunteers to deem if/when appropriate and/or to receive additional support.*
- . Using a smartwatch to track steps, heart rate, or other health-related information.
- . Other times or uses deemed appropriate by leaders/volunteers (e.g., looking up a YouTube video on how to make bracelet kits).

If appropriate phone use is not followed by campers, a tiered warning process will be used:

**.1st instance inappropriate phone use** – verbal reminder from leader/volunteer directly to camper.

**.2nd instance of inappropriate phone use** – second verbal warning from leader/volunteer and express that if inappropriate use continues, the device will be confiscated.

**.3rd instance of inappropriate phone use** – device confiscated for a set period of time (until end of day, overnight, etc.) and additional warning that the next time the device will remain in Camp One Step staff's possession until the end of camp; at this point, parents/guardians will be contacted to notify them of device confiscation and camper will be notified that inappropriate phone use can lead to limited participation at future camps.

**.Final instance of inappropriate phone use** – device confiscated until the end of camp, parents/guardians called by Camp One Step staff, and camper notified that inappropriate phone use will impact future camp participation.

*\*Please note: If a camper engages in inappropriate phone use that involves bullying/cyberbullying, nonconsensual photo taking and/or sharing, threats or other zero tolerance offences, the warning procedure above will be bypassed and the individual will be dismissed from camp with the understanding that future camp participation will be impacted due to the behavior(s).*

**ATTENTION PARENTS:** As you'll have seen in our Camp Participant Guidelines & Parent Handbook we ask that you partner with COS to ensure that your camper is able to unplug while with us at camp. To that end, if you wish to know about your camper's experience, please email or call a COS staff member rather than reaching out to your camper. If your camper reaches out to home with concerns, we ask that you redirect them to discuss with their counselors or a trusted adult at camp so we can manage on site.