



## 2010 POLICY FOR SENDING CAMPERS HOME TEEN PROGRAMS

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

Please Check:  Agree  Kennedy  Western  Alaska

Tamarack Camps has a standard policy with regard to sending campers home due to behavior problems. Many circumstances are taken into account when making the decision to send a camper home, as each situation and camper is unique. However, our goal is to maintain a consistent policy. The decision to send a camper home is made by the Director of Teen & Family programs and the director or supervisor of your child's program. Please be advised that if a child is sent home, no refund shall be provided.

Campers could be sent home for a variety of reasons, including: inappropriate behavior, leaving or attempting to leave the group without permission; possessing or using cigarettes, illegal drugs or alcohol, stealing, inappropriate sexual behavior, jeopardizing the safety of themselves or others and/or participation in inappropriate pranks.

On the first day of camp the director or supervisor conducts a meeting with all of the campers and staff in attendance, and camp policies are explicitly reviewed. Campers also have an opportunity to anonymously turn in any contraband items they may have brought on the trip such as cigarettes, illegal drugs, alcohol, cigarette lighters and matches. After a set time, campers are then held personally responsible for possessing or using these items.

### **SMOKING/DRUGS/ALCOHOL**

Campers are informed that if they are in possession of cigarettes, illegal drugs or alcohol at any time during the summer, they should expect to be sent home. Parents are called immediately.

### **PERSONAL HEALTH**

Campers are responsible for maintaining a healthy life-style while on their trip. This includes eating appropriately, getting enough rest, staying hydrated and taking all required medication. Failure to follow through with these safety precautions could result in putting the camper and the group in danger. Therefore, campers could be sent home if they don't take responsibility to take care of themselves.

### **INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR**

In most cases, a particular format is followed before a camper is sent home. When a camper's behavior is consistently inappropriate, he or she will be spoken to by their director or supervisor. Also, the child's parents will be called to alert them of the problem and inform them that, unless there are significant changes made by their child, there is a possibility the child may be sent home. In addition, the camper will talk to his or her parents by phone. Open communication with the parents, child, director or supervisor, and director of the teen and family programs, helps to set the stage in case the child's behavior does not improve and he or she needs to be sent home.

The most significant factor in the decision to send a camper home is evaluating how the poor behavior is affecting other campers in the program. This cost will be at the parents' expense. One camper will not remain at camp and consistently damage the experience of the remaining campers.

**LEAVING OR ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE THE GROUP WITHOUT PERMISSION**

Whenever a camper leaves the group without permission or even attempts to “run away,” he or she will be sent home. Typically, once a camper “runs” he or she will try again, and camp will not be responsible for campers unsupervised away from the group at any time.

**INAPPROPRIATE SEXUAL BEHAVIIOR**

This topic is clearly discussed with the campers. Any camper who either intentionally violates or touches someone else in a sexually inappropriate manner will be sent home. In addition, a camper who verbally threatens someone with sexually offensive language may also be sent home. Not only is this behavior unacceptable, but it also affects all other campers.

**STEALING**

At the first group meeting, the discussion always includes the topic of respecting each other and personal belongings. Campers are informed that they must ask permission to enter someone else’s tent or living area or to use anyone’s possessions. When campers are in city/store vicinities, they are specifically reminded about camp’s policy of shoplifting. It is clearly stated that campers will be sent home if they steal.

**PRANKS**

Campers could be sent home for participation in pranks that may effect camp activities or destroy property. Damage to property is the financial responsibility of the parents.

**SAFETY**

A camper could be sent home if he or she either endangers his or her own safety or the safety of anyone else (for example: a camper who uses a cigarette lighter and bug spray to set something on fire).

Again, please be advised that the above list illustrates some examples for the grounds of dismissal, but is not intended to define every potential circumstance. The Camp Director or Supervisor shall have broad discretion in balancing behavioral issues with the ultimate desire to provide a complete, fair and enjoyable experience for every camper.

This document has been read, understood and the signature below represents full agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_
Camper Name (Please Print)

Date\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_
Camper Signature

\_\_\_\_\_
Parent Name (Please Print)

Date\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_
Parent Signature