



Camp Lookout Cell Phone Policy

Camp Lookout is about forming a supportive community, expressing creativity, fostering independence and connecting with nature. At camp the presence of phones and other electronic devices is threatening these core values.

Camp NO longer allows campers to bring phones, smart phones or any other similar devices to camp. This includes devices with or without cellular, 3G, 4G or wi-fi capabilities (including e-readers, tablets, iPods, etc.).

This decision has not been made lightly and is the culmination of years of difficult discussions, experiments, learning experiences and most importantly, the knowledge that Camp Lookout and Crystallaire have existed and thrived for many years — WITHOUT CELL PHONES and the like!

We feel this is not a departure from our current philosophy, but rather an attempt to update our policies to reflect the rapidly transforming and ever-more technological world.

If you need convincing, staff and campers (from session B, 2014) have compiled a list of a few ways the use of phones have negatively affected their camp experience:

- These electronic devices undermine the face-to-face interactions necessary to build a cohesive community.
- These electronic devices isolate campers from their camp-friends and counselors by plugging them into the hectic worlds of social media, gaming and on-demand music and video streaming.
- Campers who use these devices while at camp, allow parents to substitute themselves for counselors, making the crucial transition to camp, especially for first-year campers, much more challenging and in some cases impossible.
- These electronic devices create an unsupervised space at camp in which negative and inappropriate conversations, as well as cyber-bullying, can occur.

To parents who do not send phones with their children to camp, we thank you and ask for your continued support. For parents who have sent phones with their children in the past, we ask that you no longer do so.

If you are a first-time camper parent, please know that we do not take the responsibility of caring for your children lightly. It is because of this commitment we feel our decision to remove phones, etc. from camp is the right one. We believe the your child's transition to camp-life will be easier because of this.

What does this mean for your camper? If a camper brings a phone on opening day, we will ask him or her to hand it in, during registration, before taking the boat across the lake; these phones will be stored securely in the dining hall and returned on the last day of camp. If a camper is found with a phone during camp, we will ask that they abide by the same standards as their peers and hand over their phones.

We encourage communication between campers and parents, but request that it occur via post, email, and — if necessary — calls facilitated by the nurse or camp directors. These individuals will continue to be available, via phone or email, throughout your child's time at camp. This method allows campers to connect with the outside world without sacrificing their camp experience.

What is allowed?

- **Music players:**
 - “Screen-free” and “non-connected” (without any sort of wireless or data connection)
 - iPod shuffle, MP3 player, Tape or CD players
- **Reading devices:**
 - Paperback or hardcover
- **Time keeping device:**
 - Good ol' wrist-watches (what do you need to know the time for anyway – it's camp!)
- **Cameras:**
 - 35mm or digital (without any sort of wireless or data connection)

Together, over the years, campers, staff, and parents have created a culture which fosters a supportive community that hasn't depended on being “connected” to the outside world. We think removing phones, etc. from camp, only highlights our core values.