



## **CAMPER CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE POLICY**

### **CODE OF CONDUCT:**

1. There should not be any physical contact between campers (other than fist bumps, high five's, appropriate hugs). Two campers should not be in a private area alone together.
2. There should not be any inappropriate touching or affectionate contact between campers, including, but not limited to kissing and hand-holding.
3. Campers may only sit on their own beds in the cabins. No bed-sharing or sleeping together.
4. Campers are only allowed in their own cabin. They should not enter other cabins or congregate on other porches.
5. Campers must not use crude, obscene or sexually suggestive language, racial slurs, or joke about homosexuality, sexual immorality, drunkenness, the occult, or other immoral behavior.
6. Campers are not permitted to take pictures or video inside any living/housing unit/cabin space/ camp-out tent or any bathroom. Campers have a right to privacy in the living areas and bathrooms.
7. Campers are not permitted to purposefully expose themselves inappropriately to others (or imitate, threaten, or pretend to expose themselves to others) either in the cabin or otherwise.
8. Campers expressing that they may hurt themselves purposefully or hurt another individual will be excused from camp (so they can have safe medical and/or parental supervision, and in keeping with our Exceptional Needs Policy, and to protect the safety of our campers and staff) and will not receive a refund or pro-rating.
9. There will be no use of profanity, swearing, or bad language.
10. No viewing, listening to, or sharing of elicit or profane material, electronic or otherwise. Campers are not permitted to upload or post inappropriate photos, videos, or text from their week of camp to social media or internet either during camp or after camp. Campers doing this may forfeit their opportunity to attend Merriwood in the future.
11. As a private Christian organization, MCC maintains high standards of conduct. MCC reserves the right to dismiss anyone not conducting him or herself in a proper manner, as determined by the Camp Administrator (or camp's final authority, which is the Senior Pastor and Deacons of Salem Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, NC).
12. Campers and guests must not bring electronics (including cell phones or watches which text or call, Nintendo Switch, Oculus, gaming headsets, IPODS, etc.), firearms, knives of any kind (including pocket knives), tobacco including smokeless tobacco, vaping devices or Juuls, alcohol, drugs, fireworks, any other combustible or illegal material, or magazines. \* MCC reserves the right to search a camper's belongings if there is reason to believe that something harmful to themselves or others or against MCC regulations, might be present. Campers will be given an opportunity on the first day of camp to turn electronics over to their counselor and will get them back Saturday morning. If MCC finds that a camper did not comply with this rule, this is grounds for dismissal from camp, without a refund or prorating.
13. Campers may not participate in illegal activity (or any conduct that could result in arrest or criminal records).

### **GENERAL CAMP RULES:** (Summer team will help enforce these.)

1. Campers shall not touch each other's belongings.
2. Campers shall give privacy to others as they are changing clothes and during the showering process. This includes giving privacy and space to those using "changing tents," getting in and out of the shower, etc. Campers shall not open closed shower curtains while others are showering. Pranks will not be allowed especially during changing/showering spaces and times. These could be interpreted as sexual misconduct or abuse.
3. Campers should not purchase soft drinks on the way into chapel times, as this is distracting and causes spills.
4. Campers may not go on the stage in cafeteria or chapel area unless given expressed permission (like for Acting class). No touching microphones, speakers, sound system, or other equipment.
5. Merriwood does not tolerate bullying – physical or emotional! Campers should avoid appearances of evil and meanness. This is the warning. Campers may not get a second chance. MCC does not allow hazing or coercion.
6. For accountability and safety purposes, hammocking is not permitted while being a camper or volunteer at Merriwood.
7. Teen Week Campers driving their own vehicles may not be at or in their vehicle throughout the week. Keys should be turned in to the counselor on the first day for safe keeping. Keys will be returned upon camp dismissal.
8. Campers are not permitted to leave the grounds at any time, for any reason unless it's an approved excused dismissal or extracurricular activity and proper paperwork is filled out ahead of time with office personnel.
9. No graffiti or scratching off paint on the bunk beds or walls of any building. MCC reserves the right to charge a damage fee for any bunk beds, walls, or facilities that are damaged. Only MCC Staff should be in storage rooms to get equipment.

10. MCC is under a local, county noise ordinance. After 10:30 p.m., the use of sound systems or microphones in the gym, chapel area, or cafeteria will not be permitted; Outside voices should be quiet after 10:30 p.m. as well.

**DRESS CODE:**

1. The reason we have standards in place is to eliminate distractions and support the principle of modesty and respect.
2. Clothing should always cover undergarments, all private areas, and the mid-section. No short shorts. Shorts must completely cover the bottom (plus several inches) and maintain modesty during all activities (typically a 3"-4" inseam).
3. No tight-fitting clothing. If wearing leggings, a long shirt should cover the bottom. If wearing a long shirt, shorts must still be visible.
4. No spaghetti strap shirts. No clothing with improper advertising.
5. Swimsuits must be one-piece and modest (or tankinis should meet at the waist).
6. Guys should wear shirts at all times, except during pool times or planned water times. Guys' bathing suits should be boxer-style (no Speedos please).
7. Campers shall dress in accordance with their biological sex.
8. Shoes must be worn at all times outside, even to and from pool and to and from bathhouse to guys' cabins by pool. The only exception is in volleyball pit or inside the pool fence.
9. Tennis shoes are recommended for most activities at camp, such as team building, most skills classes, recreation time, etc.
10. Please embrace the dress code positively, recognizing its connection to our Christian values, as your choices contribute to a respectful and positive atmosphere. MCC reserves the right to ask any individual camper to change his/her outfit if, the estimation of the staff, it is immodest or inappropriate.
11. Consequences are in place for non-compliance, ensuring a consistent and fair camp experience for all.

**DISCIPLINE:** The need for camper discipline or dismissal is a disappointment to all concerned. However, occasionally it is a reality. Two or more MCC year round staff members will be involved in a decision involving a camper dismissal. There are two ways campers may be dismissed from MCC's program: the slow way or the fast way. See below:

**THE FAST WAY: FOR A MAJOR ACT OR INCIDENT: Including, but not limited to:**

1. Any actions jeopardizing the safety of another person, including yourself.
2. Any sexual misconduct or behavior that is not appropriate or in keeping with our above statements.
3. Making plans to commit sexual misconduct or behavior that is unseemly.
4. Any form of abuse to another camper, staff member, or volunteer (mental, physical, emotional, sexual).
5. Use of tobacco (smokeless or not), vaping products or Juuls, alcohol, drugs, or illegal substances or making plans to do so while at camp.
6. Publishing, uploading, or posting any data or material that is in opposition of MCC's philosophy and mission.
7. Leaving the grounds (or making plans to do so) while under the camp's supervision.
8. Two campers purposefully alone in a private area, with the intention of doing something against MCC's mission, philosophy, the above stated rules and code of conduct, or against Biblical principles.

**\*\*** No additional warning may be given. Camper's dismissal for these actions may be immediate. There will be no refunds or pro-rating of the week if camper is dismissed.

**THE SLOW WAY: FOR PATTERN OR ACTION: Including, but not limited to:**

1. Continual negative or derogatory comments concerning food, program, staff, or leadership, except in the proper attitude and spirit, through the proper channels. This includes campers showing continual dis-respect for authority, rules, counselor, or other staff members in authority over them.
2. Repeated tardiness or absenteeism at activities or refusal to participate without due cause.
3. Taking photos and/or video in the cabin. (Footage and equipment used to gain footage will be confiscated.)
4. Not following curfew or leaving the cabin after lights-out without permission.
5. Pranks or "extra-curricular activity" without permission from the counselor or camp director.
6. Deliberately disobeying Merriwood rules and policies.
7. Using inappropriate language or innuendos, or using foul or abusive language.
8. Two campers continuously alone in a private area together.

**\*\*** Your counselor or another staff member may approach you verbally about "slow way" actions. If the behavior or attitudes continue, the camper may be dismissed from the program. No refunds or pro-rating of the week will be permitted.

**IN THE EVENT OF CAMPER DISMISSAL:**

1. The parent/guardian of the camper will be called and a MCC staff member will explain the offense.
2. The camper being dismissed will not be permitted to interact with other campers once the dismissal decision has been made. The camper may be escorted to collect their things along with a staff member. MCC will expect a parent/guardian to come pick the camper up in a timely manner.