HOWARD COUNTY 4-H CAMP RULES

We recommend that parents or guardians read over these HOWARD COUNTY 4-H CAMP RULES with the campers before camp to be sure that the campers understand the standards of behavior that each camper is expected to follow while at the Howard County 4-H Camp. These rules are established to ensure the safety of the campers and to promote all aspects of a successful camp experience for everyone. Serious or intentional infractions of the rules, particularly in terms of camper safety, may result in campers being sent home early or not being invited back to camp in the future.

1. Maryland 4-H Behavioral Expectation will be in effect during the entire week of camp including travel to and from camp.

2. The swimming test is to be taken by everyone!

3. Closed toe shoes or boots must be worn at all times out-of-doors; Flip-Flops are permitted to be worn at the Bathroom Showers and Swimming areas only. NO CROCS.

4. Beds must be made in the morning and cabins are to be kept in order. No camper is allowed to enter someone else’s cabin. Rest time should be observed as such. Campers are to go to their assigned cabins and rest or write letters for quiet time; campers are expected to be relatively quiet during rest time.

5. **Items such as any electronics, cell phones, firecrackers, matches, knives, curling irons, radios, electronic games, iPads and iPods, are not allowed at camp** with the exception that Teen Leaders are permitted to bring an IPod/Phone to camp for campfire purposes only. Otherwise, anything of this nature brought to the camp will be taken and held by the 4-H Extension Staff for the duration of camp. For those items that Teen Leaders are permitted to bring, when the items are not in use, the items must be kept in an assigned location by the 4-H Extension Staff.

6. Everyone, regardless of gender, should respect the rights of each other’s privacy.

7. Campers and Teen Leaders are to clear their table area once finished eating. Everyone must show good table manners at all times.

8. Please do not throw litter in the camp area, in fact please pick it up and properly dispose of it. Trash should be placed in trash cans; please do not damage any of the buildings, trees, shrubs, etc. We are also responsible for taking reasonable care of the camp buses we use to take campers to and from camp. Please note: The bus company does not allow eating or drinking on the bus.
9. Campers and Teen Leaders are not allowed to leave camp unless approved by the 4-H Extension Staff in charge. A letter must be received prior to camp if a camper or a Teen Leader will be arriving at camp late or leaving camp early with parent or guardian. If someone other than a camper’s parent or guardian is responsible for taking the teen leaders or camper home, a signed letter from parent or guardian is required to be on file prior to departure for camp. (Note: This applies to pick up at both camp and at the fairgrounds upon returning on Saturday.)

10. Campers are expected to wash their face and hands and brush their teeth twice a day and shower daily. Western Maryland 4-H Center only has shower facilities, so PLEASE encourage campers to take showers daily while at camp. We suggest and encourage youth with long hair to have ties to pull it back for safety reason during activities they participate in throughout the day. Shaving cream can be used in the bathroom shower facilities only.

11. Campers who are disruptive in their cabin will have a discussion with the 4-H Extension Staff to ascertain “next steps.” Letters may be written about misbehavior by a camper and forwarded home from camp or the camper may be required to call home to let parents know of their misbehavior. Any camper found to have damaged any camp property will be responsible for the replacement or repair of the property. Here again, serious or intentional infractions of the rules, particularly in terms of camper safety, may result in campers being sent home early or not being invited back to camp in the future.

12. The lake front, swimming area (the waterfront area), archery and rifle range is off limits except during assigned activity times. The lifeguard must be at the waterfront area at all times when campers/teen leaders are at the waterfront. Campers and Teen Leaders should only be at the waterfront area, archery and rifle range when they are assigned to be there.

13. Money should not be brought to camp!

14. Campers must stay with their assigned groups at all times.

15. If a camper is on medications, the medicine must be kept with the camp nurse. Only those campers needing to carry medicines for major allergies must be pre-approved. Please notify the 4-H Extension Staff by letter in advance of the camper departing from the fairgrounds on the bus for camp if the Camper or Teen Leader needs to carry his or her medications.

**ITEMS TO BRING TO CAMP (MARK YOUR BELONGINGS)**

**Luggage** - You may only bring one medium-sized suitcase and one small carry-on or backpack due to limited amount of bus space – PLEASE PLAN CAREFULLY!
**Sleeping Supplies** - Sleeping bag (if you don't have one or can't borrow one, bring a fitted sheet, two blankets and a pillow). It gets cold in the mountains (35-40 degrees at night is not unusual). A sleeping bag is necessary to participate in the overnight camp out. Extra blankets are usually available if necessary.

**Clothes**

- Pre-washed 100% cotton WHITE T-shirt for spirit activity
- Please bring 2-3 Pre-washed 100% cotton t-shirts, pillow case or similarly weighted/sized item (no heavy items such as sweatshirts and denim items) for Tie Dyeing Elective Activity
- Old jeans and shorts. Shorts for during the day and jeans are a must for the evening. (Please do not bring designer jeans, camp cannot be held responsible for clothing)
- Old clothes are recommended for all camp activities
- Sweaters and/or a jacket (a necessity on cold nights)
- 1 pair heavy shoes; 1 pair sneakers and/or boots (you need at least one change of shoes in case of rain)
- Swim trunks/bathing suit
- Socks, underwear, pajamas (in case of rain, pack enough socks for daily change)
- Rain Gear

**Sunday Lunch** – Lunches will be collected at the fair grounds and will be returned to campers once campers reach the camp. Please pack a lunch in a bag with camper’s name on the bag. Drinks will be provided by the camp.

**Personal Items** - Towels, washcloths, toothbrush, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, brush or comb. Supply large zip lock bag so all of these items, except for towels, can be placed inside for easy daily location. Pack at least two towels one for the shower and one for the waterfront.

**Theme Days** – The theme will be announced at orientation so that the appropriate needed theme items can be packed for camp.

**Miscellaneous Needs** - PLEASE PUT THE CAMPER’S NAME ON ALL ITEMS! ALL ITEMS MUST BE PACKED IN A SUITCASE!
- Flashlight
- Laundry bag for soiled clothes
- Insect repellent
- Camera (if you wish) – inexpensive or disposable (with camper’s name on it)
- Sun block lotion is a must
- If the Camper or Teen Leader wears glasses or earrings, please bring old ones, as they could get lost or broken
- Fun skits, songs, acts for Talent Night - come prepared, instruments are permitted; instruments will be stored in a safe secure location.
- Refillable water bottle with Camper’s name clearly marked.
DO NOT BRING – 1) money as it is not needed, 2) good clothes or valuables (camp will not be responsible for loss); 3) we discourage snacks (attracts mice in the cabins), however if you choose to pack snacks please make sure they are in an air tight or metal containers to keep from attracting the wildlife in the area.

NOT PERMITTED - Remember: Items such as any electronics, cell phones, firecrackers, matches, knives, curling irons, radios, electronic games, IPads and IPods, are not allowed at camp. If you have second thoughts about it, DO NOT PACK IT! Radios should only be brought by Teen Leader and must be kept in the designated location when not in use.

(To the Campers and Teen Leaders: Do not bring the above items and risk them being taken away or you being sent home. We want everyone to have a good time, but we do not want the safety of anyone jeopardized.)

To the parents: PLEASE! Encourage your camper to bring home all of his or her belongings. If you cannot find all of your Camper’s belongings or if you do find someone else’s when you get home, please contact and/or visit the Extension Office. Any articles not claimed within two weeks from June 27, 2015 will be donated to a charity. At camp, if a Camper or Teen Leader needs anything, they can go to the Director’s cabin. Extra supplies are available.

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