

## 2025 RTLC POLICY STATEMENT ON CAMP DISCIPLINE

Primary to a statement on camp discipline is an understanding of teaching campers to do good by positive influence on the part of camp staff. Our intent is to provide the disobedient camper with sufficient information about his/her behavior without removing the camper from the general activities of the total group. Continued group involvement is to be maintained.

Under no circumstance is the staff person to lose control of his/her temper. The disobedient camper is not to be singled out in the midst of other campers, nor is he/she made to feel unwanted or unloved by the staff person. No grudges are held. No threats are levied. Follow through action is always appropriate.

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp affirms the special uniqueness of each camper. We also encourage that the solution begins with the campers themselves. Campers should feel obligated to speak directly to violators. If this action does not cure the problem, the cabin counselor should become involved. The program director would be the next person to relate to the issue. The final step would be to take the child and the problem to the camp director. In extreme cases, when the final resolution of the problem behavior seems too distant, the parents of the camper should be notified.

Staff persons are not allowed to strike a camper, under any circumstances, for disciplinary situations. Camper privileges, such as camp store hours, hiking time, and the like, may be withheld. Necessary arrangements will be made in these cases so that the camper will not be left unsupervised. At no time is a camper to be sent back to his/her cabin. No camper is to be barred from eating regular meals.

A Christian perspective of forgiveness is to be shared between staff and camper. It is possible to start over - to be forgiven and to begin again. A renewed sense of purpose should be achieved. Our goal is to assist not only the physical growth of the camper, but the spiritual, mental, and emotional growth as well.

Reviewed, May, 2025    DKJ

## DISCIPLINE TECHNIQUE

" Perception Check":

ASK CAMPER:

1. "WHAT are you doing that I can't allow?"
2. "WHY can't I allow this?"
3. "WHAT will you do the next time?"
4. "WHAT do you feel you need to do now?"

BE CONSISTENT AND ALWAYS FOLLOW THIS QUESTIONING PROCEDURE AND THIS WILL HELP MAKE YOUR CAMPER TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ACTIONS AND YOU WILL KNOW THAT THEY UNDERSTAND WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THEM, AS FAR AS THEIR BEHAVIOR.