

Camp Horizons Community Agreement

This agreement must be signed by all campers and staff members and returned to camp by **June 1**.

Thank you for agreeing to be a part of the Camp Horizons community this summer. We are excited about the people, programs, and facility that will make up our summer, and we hope you are excited also! We are committed to the idea that Camp Horizons is a community, and your membership in that community carries with it certain rights and responsibilities. Most of our camp rules are based upon the information below.

As a member of the Camp Horizons community, I have the right to....

... be respected for who and what I am. have the right to be myself and have others accept me for who I am, provided I live up to the responsibilities outlined below.

... “stumble forward.” Sometimes we say that we all have the right to make mistakes, but it really is not a mistake if we take the time to learn from it.

... play. Camp Horizons has a policy that says, “You can’t say I can’t play.” Even if I am not the best, the fastest, or the smartest, I have a right to play with you.

... be happy, sad, mad, lonely, excited, tired, frustrated, enthusiastic, or even a little grumpy. It is my responsibility to **deal with those feelings appropriately**, and recognize how my actions affect others, but I have the right to feel them. And if I am struggling with these emotions, I know I can talk to a counselor.

... be safe. I need to know that I am safe, physically, emotionally, and socially. Of course, I understand that accidents might happen, but I have the right to feel that I will not be hurt on purpose.

... feel valued. There are a lot of places I could be other than camp, and I need to know that my presence here is important and that I am a valuable part of Camp Horizons.

As a member of the Camp Horizons community, I have the responsibility to

... respect others. I understand that we all have differences, and differences do not mean better or worse, just different. I am better in some ways and worse in some ways, and it is my responsibility to understand that and treat others like I would like to be treated. **I will respect people’s names and pronouns, and not do anything on purpose to make others feel left out.**

... **keep it Camp Appropriate. Here at Camp Horizons, we need to make sure that we aren’t discussing anything inappropriate or too in-depth. This means using appropriate language (no cursing) and keeping topics age appropriate, as you don’t know who is listening or what it may trigger.**

... try. I may not always succeed, but I need to try. I will sometimes fail, but if that failure happens after an honest try, I will learn from it and let it make me better. I will try new activities, new ways of treating others, and new ways of treating myself, and if I fail, I hope others will accept my attempt, but I will at least know that I gave it my best shot.

... feel whatever emotions I need to feel, but not to let that affect others in an inappropriate way. **This means if I am angry, I will talk with a counselor and explain why I am frustrated. I will not react violently in any way and will not disrupt the camp programming**

... value others. I will try to make others feel as if they are important, in part because that makes them feel good about themselves, but mostly because they are important. Each of us has talents that when put together help us learn from each other and do more and better things than if we tried to do them by themselves. I will look for the value in others, while never forgetting my responsibility to also value myself.