

# Camp Ocean Pines

## Understanding Child Abuse

The Camp Ocean Pines staff, the attending school staff and, most importantly, the parents of our students are extremely concerned that each student attending the outdoor school feels well cared for, safe and secure. We are also concerned about you and your need to be sensitive to the acts that could be misinterpreted by students. Such acts could result in questioning of your reputation for years to follow. For this reason, you are asked to read and be aware of the following behaviors that will or might be considered abusive.

- Intentional or unintentional “meanness” toward students such as critical, sarcastic or cutting remarks. Comebacks or put-downs are all signs and examples of verbal and emotional or psychological abuse.
- Any act, intentional or unintentional, that could cause a student to feel embarrassed, fearful or insecure.
- Any excessive or physical form of punishment such as push-ups, running laps, hitting, pushing, shoving, pinching, grabbing, squeezing, pulling or any other use of the hands, feet or objects that could cause bodily harm.
- Allowing behavior that could result in bodily harm.
- Any display, physical or verbal, that is sexual in nature.
- Offering, allowing or encouraging in any way the use of inappropriate pictures, magazines, books or paraphernalia.
- Participating in, encouraging or allowing inappropriate discussions, particularly of a sexual or sexist nature.

We, as adults, are expected to protect the children in our care; therefore, it is imperative that you refrain from any potentially abusive acts. It is also imperative that you refrain from being alone with a single student at all times in order to protect yourself. We also ask you to be sensitive to the possibility of abusive situations that may be occurring around you. Thank you for your help to prevent and deal with this sensitive issue. If you have questions at any time during the program, please don't hesitate to ask the Program Director.

I have read the preceding and understand its content and will refrain from any act that could be considered abusive.

Chaperone Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_