

Camper Code of Conduct

The goal of our Y camps is to provide children and youth with a positive camp experience leading to personal growth in a safe and welcoming environment. We expect campers and their families to act respectfully while at camp and have a firm policy against all types of bullying. Please read our Camper Code of Conduct below with your camper before camp to ensure that all participants get the most out of their Y camp experience.

Our Five Core Values

- **Compassion** – We care about others and show kindness through our words and actions.
- **Dignity** – We treat everyone with respect and help each person feel valued and important.
- **Inclusion** – Everyone is welcome here! We celebrate our differences and make sure no one feels left out.
- **Accountability** – We take responsibility for what we do and do our best to make things right when we make a mistake.
- **Excellence** – We try our hardest, keep learning, and take pride in doing our best every day.

Campers May Not

- Use slurs, discriminatory language, or phrases and comments that convey harmful stereotypes.
- Use abusive language including swearing, name-calling, taunting, mocking and mean jokes.
- Display behavior that places themselves, other campers, or staff at risk, such as hitting, punching, kicking, pushing, spitting, biting and throwing objects towards others intending harm.
- Bully other participants. Bullying refers to repetitive, intentional hurting or threat of hurting an individual or group. This includes verbal, physical actions, or cyberbullying.
- Disrespect the physical camp environment, including camp spaces, furniture, and program supplies.
- Display inappropriate sexual behavior towards others, including comments, gestures and physical interactions.

Campers who do not follow these guidelines may be removed from camp temporarily or permanently, depending on the individual situation and based on the discretion of camp management.

Green, Yellow, & Red-Light Practice

The Green, Yellow, Red-Light practice is to ensure our expectations are clear, and the regulation of uncooperative behavior is consistent. Y Camp staff will work proactively with children to decrease the likelihood of uncooperative behavior, and will react appropriately if uncooperative behavior is exhibited.

Items such as positive reinforcement, Full Value Contracts, Think Sheets, check-ins, reward systems and parental meetings will be used to help campers make positive choices and learn to regulate their own behavior. Our approach is to validate their feelings, while also holding important safety boundaries.

Green Light

- Caring for others
- Participating in programming
- Showing respect
- Sharing
- Being inclusive
- Honesty
- Taking responsibility
- Using kind language
- Following counsellor's instructions

Behavior exhibited within the Green Light will be met with positive reinforcement, opportunities for choice and leadership, and encouragement from Y staff.

Yellow Light

- Not listening to others
- Running away from an activity area
- Not following activity rules
- Repetitive refusal to participate
- Play fighting/rough play
- Dishonesty
- Using hurtful words or actions
- Not including others

Behavior exhibited within the Yellow Light will be met with check-ins with Y staff, Think Sheets and Friendship Forms, helping campers understand what the expectation is and how to make better choices to avoid recurrence. If repeated Yellow Light behaviors occur, the camper will experience a 1-day break from camp to reflect on their behaviors and prevent further disruption to another camper's experience.

Red Light

- Fighting
- Possession of a weapon
- Physical aggression
- Sexual behavior
- Discriminatory language
- Repeat verbal aggression
- Possession of alcohol or drugs
- Hitting with intent to harm
- Running outside of site boundaries
- Repeat "Yellow Light" behavior

Behavior exhibited within the Red Light will be met with parental meetings (via phone, email or in-person) and internal incident reports, as well as immediate removal from the camp program. The opportunity to return to camp will depend on both the severity of the behavior, other camper & staff safety, as well as the willingness of both camper and guardian to rectify the behavior. If behavior is severe, a camper may be removed from camp for the remainder of the summer. If a 1-day break is required, and any Yellow or Red-Light behaviors occur upon their return to camp, the camper may be removed from camp for the remainder of the summer.

Y Camp Staff

day.camps@ymcaottawa.ca

613-832-1234

ymcaottawa.ca