

Camp Horizons Community Agreement

This agreement must be signed by all campers upon enrollment and is reviewed with everyone at the start of every session. We put together this Community Agreement to help every member of Camp Horizons to enter our community with an understanding of the expectations we have of them as members of that group. We encourage all families to review the Community Agreement together prior to their arrival at camp.

Thank you for agreeing to be a part of the Camp Horizons community this summer. We are excited to have the best summer yet. Camp Horizons is a community, and your membership of this community carries with it certain rights and responsibilities.

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

- **be respected for who and what I am.** I have the right to be myself and have others accept me for who I am, provided I live up to the responsibilities outlined below.
- **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 trust that I will not be hurt on purpose.
- **“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. I will sometimes fail, but no matter how I fail in the small things, I have the right to move forward without being shunned or teased.
- **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 cabin leader.
- **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, simply different. 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 are keeping the community safe for people of all ages, backgrounds, and beliefs. This means using appropriate language (no cursing), engaging appropriately with controversial or divisive topics, and keeping conversation age appropriate.
- **try.** I may not always succeed, but I must 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 trust my community to accept my attempt, and I will know that I gave it my best attempt.
- **to express my emotions, but I will do so in a way that does not negatively impact others.** If I am feeling angry, I will communicate with a cabin leader to share my feelings and frustrations. I will make sure my reactions do not disrupt camp activities or the experiences of fellow campers. I understand there is no place in our community for violence, bullying, or purposeful harm.
- **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 separately. I will look for the value in others, while never forgetting my responsibility to also value myself.