

LIFE CAMPS AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

# Policy in relation to Electronic Devices Campers at Childrens Camp (2Cs) and Young Teens Camp (YTCs)

*This Policy in relation to Electronic Devices:*

- encourages campers to:
  - spend time outdoors;
  - socialise with other campers rather than focusing on friends at home;
  - have a break from the world of technology;
  - fully embrace and “plug into” connection they make with other campers as they “unplug” from their electronic devices; and
- reduces the risk of and stress associated with:
  - a divide between the “haves” and the “have nots” in each cabin;
  - possible damage to and theft of electronic devices;
  - exposure to age-inappropriate material;
  - unwanted social media activity or cyber bullying; and

*Seize Life*

- lessens the risk that a camper might:
  - post their camp photos on the internet; and
  - hear about an incident concerning home and family before a parent or guardian can communicate with them as appropriate.

*This Policy applies to Campers at all 2Cs and YTCs Camps. Leaders, Middle Teen Campers and Older Teen Campers should refer to policies relevant to them.*

**OUR STRONG RECOMMENDATION IS THAT NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES BE BROUGHT TO CAMP.**

- In the event a camper brings an electronic device to camp for any reason whatsoever then, except as otherwise stated in this Policy, it will be kept safe by the Camp Organiser for the duration of the camp and returned to the camper at the end.
- Any electronic devices are brought to camp at the sole risk of the owner and Life Camps Australia cannot guarantee that such devices will not be lost, stolen or damaged.

**MOBILE PHONES - NO**

- Campers are NOT PERMITTED to have a mobile phone at camp.
- Camp is an opportunity for campers to experience a world beyond home. This allows campers to develop autonomy, independence and a stronger sense of self. It allows them to make new friends, take responsibility for themselves and their fellow campers, problem solve and grow in maturity. These things may be difficult to achieve when parents and friends not at camp are only a phone call away.
- In the event of emergency parents can get a message to a camper by phoning the Manager of Life Camps Australia who will then contact the relevant Camp Organiser: Amy Tyler 0457 667 354.

**LAPTOPS, NETBOOKS, IPADS, E-READERS ETC - NO**

- These and similar electronic devices are not permitted at camp.
- As an alternative to these electronic devices please feel free to send age-appropriate books. Sharing books is a great pastime of camp!
- If possible, campers should bring a hard copy of the Bible to camp. In the event that a camper does not have a Bible, one will be provided at no additional cost.

**GAMEBOYS, PSPS, NINTENDO DS ETC - NO**



- No electronic hand-held game devices are permitted at camp.
- As an alternative send a board game or card game to camp if a camper needs to spend time quietly. The camp program is always packed with activities to keep campers occupied. These games and activities, not hand-held electronic games, allow campers to socialize, interact with one another and build community with each other.
- NOTE: Please label any games a camper brings.

#### **IPOD / MP3 PLAYERS - YES SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS**

- If a camper desires to have his/her music at camp, please send an inexpensive mp3 player or an older generation iPod that does not have a touch screen. Mp3 players/mobile devices with touch screens are not permitted at camp. This will ensure campers cannot watch videos, TV shows or movies or access the internet. As such, Smart Phones are not permitted in camp, even if the SIM card has been removed.
- Mp3 players/mobile devices may not be used at meal times, during games and activities or during devotions. From time to time the Camp Organiser may authorise campers to use these devices, e.g. at quiet times during the day or in bed at night. Mp3 players/mobile devices must be used quietly and with consideration given to other people.
- If devices are used at a time or in a way which have not been authorised by the Camp Organiser the device may be removed from the camper and restored to them at the discretion of the Camp Organiser or at the end of camp.

#### **DIGITAL CAMERAS - YES SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS**

- We encourage campers to live in the moment rather than just photograph it. Life Camps Australia will nominate a person to attend camps, take photos and make them available on social media so there is no need for campers to take photos.
- However, we recognise that taking photos is increasingly part of life. Therefore, we encourage campers to bring an inexpensive digital camera or disposable camera to camp. Cameras that are mobile phones, can access the internet or can upload pictures to Facebook, Instagram etc are not permitted.
- Pictures should only be taken of leaders and campers with their permission.
- Life Camps Australia cannot control what happens with a photograph once it has been taken. We strongly urge parents or guardians to ALWAYS:
  - review a camper's digital photos before allowing them to be posted on the internet; and
  - check with other parents before posting, sharing or tagging images that include their camper.

#### **ELECTRICITY AND INTERNET AT CAMP**



- There is VERY limited access to electric plugs on camp available to campers. Internet, whilst available, is often sketchy and unreliable.

We encourage campers to leave all electronic devices at home. As set out above, if a camper brings an electronic device to camp for any reason whatsoever then, except as otherwise stated in this Policy, it will be kept safe by the Camp Organiser for the duration of the camp and returned to the camper at the end.

If you have any questions or want further clarification, please contact us at [info@lifecamps.org.au](mailto:info@lifecamps.org.au) or the Manager on 0455 236 679.

Last reviewed: *June 2021*

Last reviewed: *December 2024*

*ABN and Manager contact details updated*

