

LIFE CAMPS AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

Policy in relation to Electronic Devices for Leaders of Children's Camps (2Cs), Younger Teen Camps (YTCs) and Older Teen Camps (OTCs)

This Policy in relation to Electronic Devices encourages Leaders of 2Cs, YTCs, and OTCs to:

- socialize with Campers and other Leaders rather than focusing on friends at home;
- have a break from the world of technology;
- fully embrace and “plug into” connections they make with Campers and other Leaders as they “unplug” from their electronic devices; and
- set an example to Campers.

This Policy applies to Leaders at Camps for 2Cs, YTCs, and OTCs. Campers refer to policies relevant to them.

seize life

OUR STRONG RECOMMENDATION IS THAT LEADERS LIMIT THE ELECTRONIC DEVICES THEY BRING TO CAMP.

- If a Leader brings an electronic device to Camp it must be used in accordance with this policy.
- Leaders should familiarise themselves with the policy that applies to Campers at the Camps they attend.

ALL DEVICES

- All electronic devices should be used discretely and sparingly. They should not be used at meal times, during games and activities, during devotions or after lights out.
- Users should give careful consideration to other Leaders and Campers when they are using devices. When talking on the phone or listening to audio, headphones should be used or the volume kept as low as possible.
- If possible, electronic devices should be inexpensive and have the name of the Leader clearly showing.
- Leaders must sign the attached Internet Usage Policy.
- 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/DEVICES WITH SIMS

- Camp is an opportunity for Campers to experience a world beyond home. To make the most of the experience, Leaders should set the example of time spent with those people who are present at Camp rather than friends or family who are not.
- If necessary to have a phone call, Leaders should do so in a space away from other campers and leaders at a suitable time.
- No U18 leaders are to have a mobile phone on camp.
 - If an Under 18 leader brings a phone to camp, it should remain in the possession of their parent.
 - If a parent is not on camp, the U18 Leader will hand in their phone/s or device with a sim (e.g. smart watch) to the Camp Organiser.
 - If access is needed (e.g. family contact, checking work roster) phone can be accessed for a short period of time at the discretion of Camp Organisers.
 - Mobile phones are not to be kept in rooms with campers.



LAPTOPS, NETBOOKS, IPADS, EREADERS ETC

- While these devices are permitted, material on them must be age appropriate.
- Leaders should bring a hard copy of the Bible to Camp.

GAMEBOYS, PSPS, NINTENDO DS ETC

- We strongly recommend that Leaders do not bring such devices to Camp. If this is not possible, use of such devices should be strictly limited.

IPOD / MP3 PLAYERS

- Devices should not be used to watch videos, TV shows or movies. Music may be played in a way that takes into consideration the amenity of other Campers.

DIGITAL CAMERAS

- We encourage Leaders and 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 after camp so there is no need for Leaders to take photos. However, we recognise that taking photos is increasingly part of life.
- Pictures should only be taken of other Leaders with their permission.
- We cannot control what happens with a photograph once it has been taken. We strongly urge Leaders:
 - check with other Leaders before posting, sharing or tagging images of them.
 - To be clear, Leaders cannot post photos of other campers (unless directly related to you) on social media.

SOCIAL MEDIA; 'FRIENDING', 'FOLLOWING', 'LIKING' ETC

- Leaders are not to accept or request to friend, follow or like Campers' or Leaders' social media channels and/or pages of Campers or Leaders who are under the age of 18.
- It is a Leader's responsibility to either:
 - ensure their profiles are set to private; OR
 - ensure their profiles are appropriate for young people to see.



We encourage Campers to leave electronic devices at home and recommend that Leaders set the example.

If you have any questions or want further clarification, please contact the Manager of Life Camps Australia on 0455 236 679 or manager@lifecamps.org.au.

Last reviewed: *September 2021*

Last reviewed: *December 2024*

ABN and Manager contact details updated

Last reviewed: *March 2026*

Minor revisions, notably to 'Mobile Phones' section

Date of next review: *Feb 2029*

