



Columbia Outdoor School & Blue Lake Camp

PO Box 759, Cranbrook, BC V1C 4J5

Phone: 250-426-3676

info@ColumbiaOutdoorSchool.com

www.ColumbiaOutdoorSchool.com



Camper Code of Conduct

We're excited to have your camper join us this spring! Spring Camp is the best place for kids to learn, try new things and gain confidence in their abilities. We have put together these guidelines to showcase some achievements we expect our campers to be able to attain as a part of their time at Blue Lake Camp. Every camper is entitled to a safe, and fun camp experience. Campers are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that ensures a safe environment for everyone and to assume responsibility for their actions. Please look over the camp expectations and talk about these with your camper before they arrive at camp.

Behavior Guidelines

1. We are going to have a lot of fun! For maximum fun allowance in the time we have together, campers must listen and follow directions given by the camp staff and arrive at their activities prepared. i.e., water bottle in hand, dressed for the weather, winter boots on, and a big ol' smile!
2. We are going to build meaningful connections this spring. Whether you're being spotted by your cabin mates on the low ropes course, or you've opted for a hug, high-five or a handshake at bedtime, campers and counsellors must respect the personal space of others. We will always ask permission before we enter someone's personal space.
3. Cruise in twos! Campers will ask permission to leave their group and always travel with a buddy.
4. For best results to make new friends, campers will need to take care of their personal hygiene (with gentle reminders from camp counsellors). For example, campers will be reminded to change their clothes, shower, and brush their teeth but counsellors are unable to supervise these tasks with visual confirmation as they take place in the bathrooms. Cabins are awarded the "Tidy Turtle" for being the cleanest and most organized cabin at camp!
5. Our number one priority is safety, and our number two is helping our campers make friends. For this reason, we will not tolerate bullying of any kind.

Homesickness

Homesickness is a normal part of overnight camp. It's also normal for parents to be worried about their kids being homesick. It is usually short lived, for a small amount of time before bedtime or during transitions. Camp staff will help your camper by facilitating making new friends, spending one on one time with them, writing letters home to you (that you will receive at pick up), finding out their interests and making them happen or doing something extra special as a cabin. Talk to your camper about missing home and that it is normal. Do not tell them they will be able to call you if they feel homesick. This leads to the camper only focusing on calling home, which in turn makes their homesickness worse. Talk to them about how they can cope or what they can do if they are missing home.

Connecting with Campers at Camp and Vice Versa:

Campers will not be able to contact their parents throughout their stay at camp. Parents are also unable to connect with their camper for general check ins. If your child is struggling at camp, our Camp Director will contact you directly. In the event of an emergency, and you need to get in touch with your child during camp, please call the office at 250-426-3676. If it is after office hours, leave a voicemail. Our office manager will receive your message and follow up. Additionally you can email the following people:

Executive Director: toddhebert@columbiaoutdoorschool.com

Director of Programs: shonna@columbiaoutdoorschool.com

Camp Director: campdirector@columbiaoutdoorschool.com

The management team will be able to answer and make calls via wifi calling from camp if they are located in the main compound area. Beyond that area they are not, so best to email to make sure they get it as soon as they return to wifi.

What Happens if a Camper Breaks the Rules?

The first time a camper misbehaves and provided the behavior does not directly affect another person, a private discussion between the counsellor(s) and the camper will be had to gain an understanding of why the camper acted out. This information is relayed to a camp lead so they can take note of it. If inappropriate behavior occurs again the camp lead will have a conversation with the camper. If the camper continues to exhibit inappropriate behavior, the Camp Director will meet with the camper and contact their parent or guardian. If a physical incident occurs (a camper hits, pushes, bullies, or exhibits any form of violence toward another person), or if a camper does something that endangers their own safety or the safety of others (such as running away from the group), then the camper is referred to the Camp Director and the camper's parent or guardian is notified. We believe that a child who is causing a problem is trying to solve one. It is our job to help facilitate the problem-solving process and work with the camper on how we can fix it. We will use every tool in our toolbox before we need to resort to sending a camper home early.

Support

If you feel that your camper may struggle with any of these expectations, please contact us prior to your child's stay, so we can set up an appropriate behavior plan while your camper is in our care. When a camper is unable to meet one of the above expectations, notice is given to the camper. The Camp Director will follow up with parents at pick up for minor behaviors or will call home if the child is having a really difficult time.

Multiple behavior warnings may result in your camper not being able to return to camp without an appropriate behavior plan.

Dismissal: Blue Lake Camp reserves the right to dismiss any camper when their behavior interferes with the rights and safety of others. No refunds will be offered for days missed.

Behaviors that warrant dismissal include:

- Bullying or purposefully hurting another person
- Continually disobeying a counsellor's direction
- Leaving the group
- Stealing or destroying property
- Engaging in inappropriate or illegal behavior
- Bringing weapons to camp (please check in camp knives with Camp Director at check in, Campers can use these under supervision)

After Camp

Your camper is going to make a new friend in their counsellor(s) at camp. They often would like a way to keep in touch with their Counsellor. You can offer our mailing address: PO BOX 759 Cranbrook V1C 4J5, or e-mail Kingaroo@ColumbiaOutdoorSchool.com (under parental supervision). Our Counsellors will not accept phone calls, texts, social media follow requests, or personal emails. If your camper is sending messages to our staff (other than via our PO box and Kingaroo's e-mail) our staff are directed to let our management team know. Parents will be contacted by us to ask you to speak to your camper about why the counsellor is unable to chat with them outside of those letters, as they are concerned about hurting their new friend's feelings. They will be very excited to see them again the following summer!

Thank you for going through our Code of Conduct with your camper. We look forward to having them at Blue Lake Camp this spring!