

YOUTH CAMP

Cell Phone Policy

Our cell phone policy for campers is pretty simple: don't bring them.

Short Story Long:

In 2024, a rule like this can come across as extreme and outdated. It can seem as if we are against technological innovation or that we feel like nothing good can come from a personal device.

Let me assure you this is not the case! This was typed on a new Mac Mini while jamming out to Phil Wickam on Spotify through an iPhone 12 Max. We love technology, and every year we comb through Camp to see what tech needs updating to best serve our guests.

However, we have also seen the damage that phones can do in a Camp setting. One of the most beautiful and powerful parts of Camp can be summed up in the word *detach*. During a week of Youth Camp here, campers leave whatever situation they are in back home and enter into a new one here, where they will meet new friends, try out new activities, gain new memories, and focus on the love of Jesus with their full attention. Without fail, and confirmed by studies at camps across the nation, we have seen that cell phones distract from this. They reattach to friends back home, reattach to old habits, reattach to normal activities, and more. The bottom line is: we believe that a week-long break from tech to fully immerse in Camp life is well worth it!

So, here is our full **Cell Phone Policy**:

Campers may not bring the following items to Camp: cell phones, tablets, computers, smart watches, or game consoles.

In emergency situations, Campers may contact home (and parents may contact campers) through our office phone. Parents can also write letters or emails to their campers, which are delivered every day at lunch.