

Camper & Family Contract

Dear Madawaska Family,

Camper Name: _____

At the start of each week camp rules and expectations of behaviour are outlined and discussed verbally with campers in a group setting. We do this to help our campers understand how their behaviours affect others. With a few exceptions this process works well. However, parents tell us that they too would like to understand these rules and expectations so that they can be part of the process. Thus, we would like to share some of them here with you in the hopes that you will discuss them with your family before Madawaska campers attend camp.

We know this list is not all-inclusive, however, outlined below are some of our primary Madawaska camper policies, using language that comments on appropriate, respectful, and safe behaviours. It is our desire and responsibility to create and nurture a camping environment that promotes healthy and positive relationships between all the members of the Madawaska community. Of course, camp staff are trained to ensure that campers are well guided in the areas below, however with your involvement we know that we can be even more effective in creating the environment to which we strive which includes:

Respect for Others

(Please check boxes below)

- 1. Respect and cooperation are important aspects of living and playing with others. Whenever possible, campers need to ask for help and guidance of counsellors. I agree to be a positive influence on my cabin mates
- 2. Cabin Staff (C.I.T.'s), as well as other Madawaska staff are our leaders and often they must make decisions that do not always meet with everyone's approval. However, in order to lead effectively, I will respect them and their decisions. If I do disagree, I know I will be able to find a time and in an appropriate manner, discuss those decisions with them.
- 3. For a cabin group to be successful I know that I must make every attempt to work with others. I will try my best to be social and interactive with kids in my cabin. I understand that I am not permitted in cabins of the opposite sex.
- 4. Community living includes caring for one's space. I will keep myself and my area clean. I will participate in daily clean-up of the cabin. I will be responsible for my belongings and clothes at camp.
- 5. Bullying, exclusion, and humiliation are destructive and hurtful behaviours. Communities that eliminate bullying most successfully are those where it is not tolerated by those in authority and those who standby. I will get help from my counsellor if I see or experience any bullying, exclusion, or humiliation at camp.
- 6. Camp is about making friends and meeting new people. I will look at the "Do Not Bring" list in the information package. I will leave cell phones, video games, DVD players, and hair straighteners at home. I understand that some of these activities can be isolating. I understand that if I bring items that are not permitted at Madawaska; they will be confiscated and held in safe keeping until the end of the week!

Respect for Camp and Camp Programs

- 7. Madawaska’s beauty is second to none. I will respect our beautiful surroundings by picking up trash and throwing away my own. I will demonstrate caution around fire pits. I know fires are only permitted at these locations with staff supervision.
- 8. I will respect the camp buildings and equipment. I will return equipment and supplies that I have used.
- 9. If I feel sick I will tell my counsellor and visit MASH (camp’s health centre).
- 10. I will allow myself to have fun and enjoy this wonderful experience that has been made possible for me.

The “Non-Negotiables” (most relevant for our oldest campers)

- 11. I understand that possessing, participating in, or being in the presence of anyone participating in cigarettes, alcohol or drugs is strictly prohibited. I understand the safety hazard of using electrical or small cooking appliances in cabins. Hot pots, grills or any other electrical devices are strictly prohibited. These policies are among our “non-negotiables” that result in immediate dismissal from camp.

****After reading and signing, mail or fax to the camp office prior to arrival at camp. Should we not receive a signed contract from you before camp, the camper will be asked to read and sign one at registration on the first day.***

A safe environment requires the complement of safe practices and consistent consequences. An educational approach is used whenever appropriate and, when necessary, we try our best to match consequences with the desired learning outcomes. A discussion with campers is always employed and some consequences may involve some extra camp-wide duties or missing a camp activity. In extreme situations, or for consistently disregarding camp rules, and at the sole discretion of the Camp Directors, your child may be asked to leave camp. Camp staff are trained to work with understanding, care, and patience. Corporal or physical punishments are not permitted, nor are humiliating or degrading measures. **I have read, discussed, and understood the expectations above with my family and will make every effort to enjoy a positive camp experience.**

Parent/Guardian Signature

Printed Name

Date

Camper Signature

Printed Name

Date