

Camp Monroe 2010 Camper / Staff Guidelines

Respect - Our special focus is on developing and fostering respect for others and respect for ourselves. At camp we live in our own world; we are removed from the outside influences that impact all of us. Each of us is a Diamond and this separation allows us to help polish our diamond. We hope to instill an awareness of the effect that our speech, actions, and dress can have. Our goal is to strengthen the positive midos (values and behaviors) of each member of our camp family. This creates a comfortable camp environment and helps our campers and staff to serve as good role models when they return to their families, schools, and communities.

Dress – On the trees at camp are many signs. One reads, “Modesty in Dress and Behavior”. We try to instill respect for every person at camp by building self-esteem. We encourage campers and staff to have the confidence to be themselves. We discourage judging people based on labels and external manifestations. Clothing companies, musical groups, sports stars, movies, DVDs, advertisers, TV sitcoms, magazines and other media attention grabbers inundate young people with styles and attitudes that are contrary to traditional family values and often suggest the antithesis to what we value. Their message is: the way to be popular and feel good is to attract others. They promote popularity by suggestively calling attention to young people’s bodies. Their use of tight clothes, low-rider pants, exposed stomachs, low cut tops and excessive face make-up certainly attract attention, but what is the real message?! Young people have also been subjected to suggestive body movements and crude behavior, and they have come to mimic these, often unconsciously. At Camp Monroe, we are prepared to stand against the tide of this media attempt to sell *their lifestyle & gear* at the expense of the inherent, wholesome nature of young people. We enjoy helping our campers and staff to regain a connection to their decent, moral selves, which has a positive effect on their self-esteem! Schools have also instituted codes of dress.

Language - Our motto at camp regarding proper speech is “Speak Like a Mensch”. We do not accept cursing (called swearing by our European staff), name-calling or any speech that is derogatory. We encourage our campers and staff to use descriptive adjectives that are neither demeaning to them, nor to the people with whom they are speaking.

Posters - We encourage decorating the bunks. Posters are permitted but not posters that are sexually suggestive, that have inappropriate pictures, that glorify or advertise alcohol, tobacco or drugs, or that use language that is cursing.

Shirts - Like posters, we will only permit T-shirts that are “clean” in relation to language, pictures, and innuendo. A shirt must be worn at all times by everyone. The following dress code will be adhered to at camp:

- All staff is required to wear a Camp Monroe T-Shirt every day.
- Bathing suits – must be one piece or tankini. A Nike Camp Monroe one piece can be purchased directly through the Camp Monroe office.
- Jeans – should not be skin tight
- Jewelry – nothing expensive or fancy
- Shorts – should not be skin tight, should be worn at the waist and not below, and the leg should come to the middle of the thigh, not higher
- T-shirts – should not be skin tight or see through, should cover the stomach and should be able to be tucked into shorts or pants
- Tank tops – must have a strap that is 3 fingers wide. No Spaghetti Tanks.
- Tube tops – should always be covered by a larger shirt
- Underwear – boxers should not stick out, and all underclothing should remain *under clothing* and not be visible Campers and Staff will be asked to change if their clothing doesn’t reflect the above list.

Body Piercing - We do not go along with all fads. We are quite traditional at camp. We do respect the right of people to choose their own styles, but we want camp to be reflective of the traditions and values that we describe in all of our camp literature. Therefore, we accept small earrings, but do not accept any other jewelry that pierces the body. Tongue piercing is not permitted in camp. Our insurance company has advised us of the potential danger and liability that exists when people are physically active while wearing jewelry. We reserve the right to ask that any body piercing, other than small earrings, be removed. We will not permit campers to get tattoos or have any body piercing at camp or while they are on a camp trip. We try to hire staff that does not have tattoos or piercing. If someone does have one of these they must keep them fully covered at all times.

Smoking - Smoking is not permitted for campers, waiters and waitresses. We also usually do not hire staff that smoke. Everyone now agrees that smoking is detrimental to one’s health and a poor example for children. An adult that does smoke must do so out of view of campers in our one enclosed smoking area,