



CELL PHONE/DEVICE USAGE AT CYL

At CYL we have always taken the safety, well-being, and camp experience of our participants – your children – very seriously. We also know we cannot do this without your help and cooperation. With more youth using cell phones/tablets and other technologies we believe that teaching them to use their devices responsibly is the right course of action rather than outright ban of devices at camp.

When participants come to camp, they – and you- are taking a leap of faith, temporarily transferring primary care from you as their parents to us as camp leaders and facilitators. This experience is one of growth, yet a challenging aspect of camp life. As youth learn to trust other caring adults, they grow and learn, little by little to solve some of their own challenges. We believe this emerging independence is one of the greatest benefits of camp. This is one of the important ways your child develops greater resilience and personal growth.

While we support youth bringing their cell phones/devices to camp we feel it is important to have a communication in place about when devices can be used.

Supervised device time:

Cell phones and electronic devices may only be used during daily supervised free time or when required for a specific activity as directed by their facilitation team. Use of the device will be limited to 30 minutes before breakfast and after dinner. The specific times will be scheduled by the Team Lead for the week and will be communicated at registration. Sharing of photos, videos, names, or personal information about other participants without their permission will not be allowed.

Cell phone liability:

If a participant brings a cell phone/device to camp, they assume all liability for lost, stolen and damaged items. These devices are expensive, and maybe exposed to outdoor weather or conditions which may prove damaging to electronic devices.

Devices that are not allowed:

Laptops, Netbooks, Kindles, Nooks, Switches, or other electronic devices are not permitted at camp.

Working together to keep youth safe:

We see many positive, exciting ways for your children to enjoy the benefits of the Internet and other technologies. As advocates for youth, we want to work with you to keep those experiences safe, healthy, and positive and urge you to speak with your child about camp and both their online activities and expectations during CYL.

We know from past experiences that when youth put down their electronic devices, it opens the door for shared experiences with other participants and their facilitators. Building new friendships, enjoying activities that may be new to them, and creating memories that will last a lifetime. Tech-less summer camps are the standard practice in Ontario and allow youth to develop meaningful bonds with others and fully engage in the “CYL” experience.

We ask that our participants power down, unplug, and take a break from the world of electronics. Please be respectful of the usage and content limitations we have in place. If you have any questions or want further clarification or discussion, please contact me directly at cfleming@ontario.coop or by phone at 289-442-1433.