

# Nevada Outdoor School

## Summer Camp Expectations and Discipline Policy

It is the goal of Nevada Outdoor School to provide the best possible summer camp experience for all our participants. We expect all our camps to be fun, safe places for campers to explore, grow, learn, challenge themselves, and make new friends.

At Nevada Outdoor School, we have **three guiding principles** we expect all campers and staff to follow at all times:

1. Respect Yourself
2. Respect Others
3. Respect the Environment/Materials

At the start of every NOS summer camps, participants help create and agree on (sign) a camp contract outlining agreed upon rules and expectations for camp which follow the three guiding principles.

In addition to these camp contracts, there are a number of **overall health and safety rules** which must be followed at all times, including:

1. Remain with adult supervision at all times.
2. Walk instead of run, unless permitted to do so as part of an organized activity.
3. Tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, and weapons of any sort (including knives) are prohibited by the Nevada Outdoor School.
4. Students may not bring electronic devices of any sort, except watches, and flashlights. Disposable or digital cameras okay. Please also tell students about loss/damage likelihood (mostly related to summer camps).
5. Swearing or foul language will be prohibited.
6. Insubordination will not be tolerated by the staff at any time.
7. No play fighting and/or physical horseplay.
8. Students are expected to participate in program activities at all times.

(Other rules will be established and communicated to participants for particular activities as required).

### Warnings and Consequences:

If a camper violates a rule or acts in a way inconsistent with the guidelines, he/she may receive a warning. These warnings may be given by any Nevada Outdoor School staff. All formal warnings will be recorded on the Discipline Log which is maintained by the program leader. Though warnings may be given informally and not recorded, the practice of verbally warning a number of times without follow-through is strongly discouraged. There may be consequences associated with warnings, but the consequence must be logically related to the violation. This may include a time-out, apology to other participant(s) affected or loss of privilege.

### SUMMER CAMP Warning System:

All formal warnings will result in a consequence as follows:

- **First warning:** The student acknowledges the error and the warning is recorded.
- **Second warning:** The student talks with the camp coordinator and/or activity leader to acknowledge the error and commit to better behavior. A time out or loss of privilege at this time may be appropriate.
- **Third warning:** The student meets with the camp coordinator and their activity leader to acknowledge the error and develop a specific plan for continued appropriate behavior. A behavior contract may be completed by the student at this time. The contract will include specific positive behaviors and/or appropriate responses to challenging situations. The parent or guardian is usually called at this time, in order to gain advice from the parent or guardian on managing behavior, and to warn them that the student may be sent home (with pickup by the parent/guardian required) if the behavior continues.
- **Fourth warning:** The student is sent home. The decision to send a student home will be made by the camp coordinator. Whether a student is sent home at this time depends upon the nature of the behavior that resulted in the warnings, the attitude of the student, the student's home situation, and the time until the end of the program. The student may be isolated from other students by staying with a person from the Nevada Outdoor School staff for the remainder of the program. It will be the parent/guardian's responsibility to pick their child up from camp (potentially up to 8 hours round trip) if a camper is dismissed.

Consequences will always be either related to the specific behavior or directed toward improving behavior. **Consequences which will never be used include:** screaming, yelling at, ridiculing or threatening students; physical punishments such as push-ups, sit-ups, running, etc.

\*Any student may be given multiple warnings at one time for intentionally unsafe behavior. This includes but is not limited to: fights which result in, or are clearly intended to result in, injury to other students; intentional scaring of other students on a hike; and intentional misuse of prescription or over-the-counter medications.\*

At no point will a NOS staff member/AmeriCorps member yell, cuss, degrade, physically harm or speak negatively about/to any student, camper, teacher, parent, or co-worker.

Though warnings will never be removed, the consequence at any level or future levels may be mitigated by the nature of the violation and the student's attitude.

Food, candy, or gum confiscated from students will not be returned due to the difficulty of storing these items. Other items confiscated will be returned to the student at the appropriate place and time once the event is over.

### **Behaviors that may result in being sent home:**

1. Violent acts against staff or students.
2. Theft or Vandalism.
3. Possession of alcohol, tobacco products, narcotics, or dangerous drugs.
4. Possession of a weapon.
5. Overt sexual behaviors toward students or staff.

6. Running away from supervision.
7. Not adhering to agreed upon camp rules and behaviors.

We look forward to having a great time with campers this week!

Prior to camp, please take time to discuss this with your campers to help reinforce the importance of following all health and safety rules to ensure everyone has the best camp experience possible!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at:

(Contact Information)

Or the NOS office:

(Winnemucca or Elko Contact Information)