



Camp Sertoma for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children
in conjunction with the
NC Department of 4-H Youth Development
Code of Conduct & Disciplinary Procedures

Camp Sertoma for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children is planned, conducted, and supervised by the Camp Sertoma Committee of NC/VA/MD and staff of Millstone 4-H Center. All campers are responsible for their conduct to those supervising the camping activity. Specific guidelines for conduct include:

Purpose and Application:

- A. This Code of Conduct is intended to foster a safe environment that is conducive to optimal learning and growth. Toward that end, youth participants are expected to behave in a way that respects the rights and property of others, and that will not disrupt or interfere with Camp Sertoma for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children /4-H program goals.
- B. This Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedure is a condition of participation in Camp Sertoma for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children, as well as any North Carolina 4-H activities or programs.

Behaviors Prohibited at Camp Sertoma for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children/4-H Program Activities:

- A. Possession, selling, and/or use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, and illegal drugs –OR– being present where individuals are using alcohol, tobacco products, and/or any illegal substances.
- B. Any kind of sexually related physical contact or exposure.
- C. Possession of weapons or firearms (except while participating in a Shooting Sports Event).
- D. Behavior that violates state or local laws.
- E. Damage to property of others.
- F. Theft, misuse or abuse of public or personal property.
- G. Conduct that jeopardizes the safety of self or others—including pushing, cussing, bullying or egging on/instigating such behavior in others.
- H. Conduct that disrupts or interferes with Camp Sertoma for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children/ 4-H programming—including unruly, bullying or disrespectful behavior or instigating such behavior in others.
- I. Leaving a program or facility without permission of parents or 4-H staff (including authorized volunteers).
- J. Inappropriate dress, including but not limited to clothing that is sexually suggestive, indecent, or otherwise disruptive to the operations or goals of the camp program. Examples include clothing with negative or hateful language or symbols; see-through blouses, skirts, or pants; sagging pants; exposed undergarments; bare midriff shirts; and excessively short, low-cut or tight garments. Clothing should meet the standards expected in public schools. Specific clothing requirements may be required where appropriate for a particular event.
- K. Unruly behavior in cabins and public areas—particularly during overnight events. There should be no running where not appropriate, prank calls, unnecessary noise, excessively late hours, or visiting or peeking into cabins of the opposite sex.

Disciplinary Procedures:

- A. Discipline may be imposed by any Sertoma staff/volunteer or 4-H staff or Cooperative Extension Service employee who has oversight responsibility for camp activities.
- B. Unless immediate action is required, the following procedures must take place before there can be any finding or conclusion of guilt:
 - 1) The accused participant shall be told the charge (which of the prohibited behaviors listed above he or she is accused of violating), and
 - 2) The accused participant is told what factual evidence supports the charge, and
 - 3) The accused participant has been given a chance to tell his/her side of the story.
- C. The Sertoma staff/volunteer and/or 4-H staff person must be satisfied that the participant more likely than not engaged in the prohibited behavior before imposing a sanction.
- D. Sanctions may include any or all of the following:
 - 1) Verbal warning.
 - 2) Notification to parents.
 - 3) Immediate removal from the activity.
 - 4) Being placed on a behavior contract.
 - 5) Referral to local law enforcement and/or juvenile court.
 - 6) Program suspension and/or expulsion from program.
 - 7) Not being allowed to return to Camp Sertoma the following year.
 - 8) Other sanctions appropriate to the circumstances, as determined by camp staff.
- E. Appeals
 - 1) Disciplinary action may be appealed to the Camp Sertoma Committee of NC/VA/MD, or to the Head of the Department of 4-H Youth Development, Cooperative Extension Service, Box 7606, NC State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-7606; telephone (919) 515-8483. All appeals must be in writing and must be received by the Department within 30 days of the disciplinary action. The Department Head or designee shall review the appeal statement, any written response from the decision maker, and other relevant information. The Department Head shall send a written decision to the appellant and the 4-H staff member who made the initial decision, and the Department Head's appeal decision shall constitute the final agency action.
- F. Immediate action situations:

Sertoma staff/volunteers and/or 4-H staff may take immediate action to remove a participant from an activity and other action as needed, where there is an emergency situation or significant risk of continuing misconduct. In those cases, the immediate action is temporary discipline; the Sertoma staff/volunteer and/or 4-H staff must arrange for the procedures in parts B, C, D, and E above as soon as possible, but in no event longer than seven days from the temporary discipline.