

Camper Behavior Guidelines – Camp Rodef Shalom

At Camp Rodef Shalom, we view camp as a unique opportunity for children to build friendships, grow in confidence, and experience the joy of being part of a caring community. To ensure a safe, respectful, and fun environment for all, we have clear expectations for camper behavior and a consistent process for addressing concerns.

We ask that families review the following guidelines with their campers prior to the start of camp.

What We Expect from Campers

Campers are expected to:

- Treat fellow campers and staff with **respect** and **kindness**.
 - Follow directions from camp staff promptly and cooperatively.
 - Use safe and appropriate language and behavior at all times.
 - Take care of camp property and respect others' belongings.
 - Participate in camp activities to the best of their ability.
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Behaviors That Are Not Acceptable

The following behaviors will not be tolerated under any circumstances and can result in immediate dismissal:

- **Physical violence or aggression** – hitting, kicking, pushing, or any form of intentional physical harm, **whether directed at other campers or staff**.
 - **Verbal or emotional abuse** – including yelling, name-calling, threats, or harassment.
 - **Bullying** – repeated negative behavior toward another camper, whether verbal, physical, social, or emotional.
 - **Disrespect toward staff** – intentionally ignoring directions, talking back, or undermining staff authority.
 - **Destruction of property** – damaging or defacing camp facilities, materials, or others' belongings.
 - **Exclusion or teasing** – intentionally isolating or mocking others.
 - **Inappropriate language or gestures** – including swearing, rude comments, or offensive behavior.
 - **Any other actions that the camp's professional staff deem inappropriate or unsafe.**
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How We Handle Behavioral Concerns

Our response to behavioral challenges is rooted in empathy, growth, and accountability. The entire behavior support process will be overseen by our **Camper Care Team**, who are trained to support children in navigating social-emotional situations with care and intention.

When behavior issues arise, staff will follow these steps:

- 1. Verbal Reminder & Redirection**

The camper will be reminded of the camp's expectations and given an opportunity to adjust their behavior in the moment.

- 2. Reflection Time / Temporary Separation**

If the behavior continues or disrupts the group, the camper may be temporarily removed from the activity to reflect and reset. They will remain supervised by a staff member at all times and will have the opportunity to **relax or engage in other camp activities** during this time.

- 3. Conversation with Leadership / Camper Care Team**

If earlier steps have not resolved the issue, a member of the **Leadership Team or Camper Care Team** will meet with the camper to further explore the behavior and identify support strategies. (This may not always involve the Camp Assistant Director or Camp Director directly.)

- 4. Parent Communication**

If concerns persist or escalate, we will reach out to parents/guardians to discuss the situation and work together on a plan for success.

- 5. Behavior Plan or Dismissal**

In cases of repeated or serious misconduct, a camper may be placed on an individualized behavior plan, temporarily suspended, or dismissed from camp. This is **always a last resort** and will only be considered after all other steps have been taken or if a camper engages in behavior that is **extremely dangerous or unacceptable**.

This will be part of an ongoing conversation with parents, and decisions will be made thoughtfully by the camp leadership in consultation with the Camper Care Team. Please note that **refunds are not issued for dismissal due to behavior**.

Our Commitment

We are committed to working closely with families to support each camper's growth and success. Our goal is to help children learn from challenges and return to the group with a stronger sense of self-awareness, empathy, and accountability.

Thank you for partnering with us to make Camp Rodef Shalom a safe, respectful, and enriching experience for every child. If you have any questions about these guidelines or our approach, please don't hesitate to reach out.

