



Summer Camp Behavior Guidelines

At Delaware Nature Society, our standard of care is that every child feels safe and secure during their program experiences. We strive to build confidence, self-esteem, and social skills in every child while also setting reasonable, natural boundaries and consequences. We expect everyone, staff, and children, to reflect the core values of DelNature while participating in programming.

Our Core Values

- **We are nature**
We take care of the places that sustain us. Humans are part of nature, and our futures are interconnected.
- **Integrity**
Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes. Set a good example for others. Think before you act. Have the courage to do the right thing even when no one is watching.
- **Engagement**
Be present and participate in activities. Be reliable (do what you say you will do).
- **Nature is for all**
Treat others with respect. Be tolerant and accepting of differences. Be considerate of the feelings of others.
- **Creativity**
We thrive when different perspectives are welcomed, and new ideas are shared.

Behaviors that are not accepted at DelNature camps:

- Refusing to follow behavior guidelines or camp rules
- Using profanity, vulgarity, or obscenity
- Stealing or damaging property (personal or camp property)
- Consistent refusal to participate in activities or cooperate with staff
- Leaving a program or activity without permission
- Endangering the health and safety of children and/or staff
- Use of illicit drugs, alcohol, vapes, or tobacco or sexual conduct of any kind
- Teasing, making fun of, or bullying other campers or staff
- Fighting and physical violence

On the first day of each camp, staff and campers will set expectations of behavior together.

When a camper does not follow the behavior guidelines, we will take the following steps;

- Staff will redirect the camper to a more appropriate behavior
- The camper will be reminded of the behavior guidelines and camp rules. The camper will be supported in identifying other ways to manage the behavior/situation.
- If the behavior persists, the child will be removed from the group for time with a camp coordinator to calm themselves and correct their behavior.
- The primary caregivers of campers with multiple instances of inappropriate behavior will receive a phone call from a camp coordinator.
- Camp staff and the camper's caregivers will work together to find a solution to the campers' behavior. If the behavior persists, the camper may be removed from camp.
- Any offense resulting in physical harm to another camper or staff member is grounds for immediate removal from DelNature camps.

We do not take removing a child from camp lightly and only do so when it is in the child's best interest or necessary for the safety or operation of the camp. While this decision could be based on multiple disruptive, unchanged behavioral issues, it could also be because a child is not engaging with camp, our setting or program is not a good fit, or any other number of non-behavioral related issues that can arise.

Camper fees are non-refundable if a camper is sent home for disciplinary reasons.

We strive to meet the individual needs of every camper. The more we know about your child, the better we can make their experience. Please reach out to our staff ahead of camp to discuss your child's needs.