

## Section 6-B



# Cell Phone and Electronics Policies

## ★ INDEPENDENT LAKE CAMP CELL PHONE POLICY: No Phones = #NoFilter @ ILC!



Independent Lake Camp understands the large role of cell phones in the world today. Children and teenagers have increasing pressures in their everyday lives to be connected to the Internet and Social Media. At ILC, we strive to foster an environment and community where kids and teenagers can be relieved of that pressure. During their time at camp, campers will interact face-to-face and “love the ones they are with.” At ILC, our policy is to ensure that our campers can disconnect, pick their heads up from their devices, make eye contact, live in the moment, learn to advocate for themselves, gain independence, and lift their chins so they can stretch and grow! **Campers at ILC are not allowed to bring any cell phone or electronic device that has access to wifi, cell service, or able to transfer data.**

*\*\*Campers who are flying to ILC may bring their phones on their journey, but must turn them in to the office upon their arrival to ILC. We will store their phones in the office until they are leaving ILC. They will not have any access to their phones during the session or on camp trips.*

If a camper is found with a cell phone or electronic device at camp, the item will be immediately confiscated. Cell phones and any other devices will be either sent home via UPS or donated to a designated charity. **The shipping and handling fee is \$250.** Campers who choose not to follow our cell phone policy will have ETB for up to 5 days. In addition, depending on the severity of use of the phone while at camp, campers may be sent home from camp early.

## ★ HOW AND WHEN CAMPERS CAN CONTACT HOME...

Campers will have the opportunity to call home during the 1st weekend of their camp experience, and then weekly for the rest of the session. Typically campers will call home in the evenings after dinner. Please note that most *Lakeside campers like to call home in the evening and some up until their curfew time, which can be quite late. Do not be alarmed or consider them calling at this time an emergency.*

*We are mindful that not all our campers and families are in the same time zone and therefore evening phone calls may not work for your family. In this case we will arrange an alternative time for you to connect with your camper.*

*We are sure to make campers aware that they can always reach out to a camper advocate, head counselor or director if they feel they need to call home.*


















Please be sure your child has memorized important phone numbers or brings a paper copy with them to camp, as ILC will provide phones for the campers to call from. All campers will also have access to the computer lab during free choice if they would like to send emails home and also have the opportunity to send letters.

This policy was created after years of experience, and is implemented to achieve the overall goal of a happy and successful experience in line with ILC's mission. We want to empower our campers to utilize the resources around them that are there to support them along their camp journey. These resources include an immensely talented staff of camper advocates and head counselors who will be introduced to all ILC campers upon arrival. ILC's policy also allows time for campers to create memories and build relationships in real time without having to continually focus on when and how they will be able to call home. Please do not expect your campers to call home every day as we want them to take the opportunities available to them while they are at camp. If they are not on the phone with you they are out participating in activities and making connections with those around them.

\*Please see section 6-A “Staying Connected- How to Contact your Camper” to see how to best keep in contact with your cell-phone-less child.

## ★ INDEPENDENT LAKE CAMP CELL PHONE AND ELECTRONICS YES OR NO LIST

In case you need any clarity of what is or is not allowed at ILC, here is a cohesive and specific list:

|  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
|   | Cell Phones   |   |   |
|   | Apple Watches, Fitbit, Garmin, etc.                     |   |   |
|   | Laptops, Computers, Tablets, iPads                      |   |   |
|   | Gameboys, Switch, Nintendo DSs, PSPs                    |   |   |
|   | Personal Hotspots or WiFi                               |   |   |
|   | Digital Cameras   |   | ONLY WITHOUT CELLULAR CONNECTIVITY  |
|   | Electronic board game toys<br>(Catchphrase, Taboo, etc) |   |   |
|   | IPOD/MP3<br>(without a touch screen)                    |   | Can Only Be Used in the Bunk & ONLY WITHOUT CELLULAR CONNECTIVITY                                       |
|  | E-Readers<br>(we do prefer “real” paper books)          |  | Can Only Be Used in the Bunk & ONLY WITHOUT CELLULAR CONNECTIVITY Nook= OK, Kindle = OK, Kindle Fire=NO |

**\*\*ILC is not responsible for any broken, lost or stolen items that are brought to camp.**

While we want to discourage electronic devices, we do recognize that reading and music play a key role in individual campers daily life and their mental health. E-readers and Music Players must have books and music already downloaded. They will not be able to stream or download any items while at camp. These items must “live” in the bunk to be used during rest hour or in the bunk after EVAC.

## ★ ONE LAST WORD ON CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONICS...

I hope we can all agree that our children and teenagers need this time during the summer while at camp to unplug, power down and have a well-needed break from social media and electronics. Please be respectful of our rules and partner with ILC by communicating this same message at home. This cell phone and electronic policy aligns with our mission of allowing campers opportunities to gain independence, learn self advocacy, and immerse themselves in our camp culture and programming.