



## **Camp Ajawah Illness, Injury and Behavior Policy 2023**

Camp Ajawah staff will make every attempt to create a positive experience for your camper throughout their session(s). However, if we are unable to accommodate a camper who is ill, injured, or has significant behavioral issues, parents/guardians must have a firm plan prepared to arrange for their camper's pickup. Emergency contacts should be listed on the health form. The parents/guardians, emergency contact, and/or other authorized person(s) must be available to pick up their camper if deemed necessary by the camp staff.

### **Injury:**

We provide basic medical care for minor cuts/scrapes, sprains, strains, bumps and bruises. In the event of a more serious injury, we will assess the individual situation in partnership with parents/guardians to determine the best way to balance safety, healing, available care and ability to participate in camp.

### **Illness:**

If your camper shows any symptoms of illness (including common cold symptoms) before coming to camp, or is exposed to a contagious disease in the 21 days before camp, please notify us. A child who is sick before camp begins should be kept home for his/her own sake, and for that of the other campers. To prevent spreading an illness, a camper that has a communicable disease or head lice may not attend camp until the condition has been fully treated and can no longer be transmitted to others.

Given limited infirmary space, we cannot keep sick campers in the infirmary for extended periods of time, such as overnight or a full day, nor can we isolate a child with a contagious disease. Therefore, we may ask that parents/guardians of ill campers care for their child at home and see their family doctor if needed.

If a camper is diagnosed as having a communicable disease or head lice while at camp, the camper will be discreetly removed from camp activities, may be asked to wear a mask, and parents/guardians will be asked to pick up their camper as soon as possible. Any camper that leaves camp for such reasons may only return by undergoing a readmission check by our medical staff.

Campers with chronic diseases should ensure that their condition is in good control prior to coming to camp, and have a written plan for how to handle complications, should they occur (asthma flare, blood sugar control issues, etc). If a camper's chronic disease cannot be kept in control at camp, they may need to return home. Once their condition is back in control, they may be able to come back to camp. Please contact the Camp Director (through the registrar) prior to camp if your child has a chronic medical condition, so we know if Camp Ajawah can safely accommodate their needs. This includes significant mental health history, especially history of self harm or threats of self harm.



We strongly recommend all routine childhood vaccines are up to date prior to attending camp, but we do not require any specific vaccine(s) for attendance.

#### COVID-19:

Camp Ajawah will continue to abide by guidelines set forth by the CDC and MDH for managing potential and confirmed cases of COVID-19. Rapid testing may be performed in the infirmary for suspected cases. For general purposes, masking will not be required during camp. However your child may be asked to wear a mask if they appear to be getting ill, while we evaluate their symptoms.

#### **Mental Health:**

Camp Ajawah staff will support, to the best of our ability, every camper's social and emotional wellbeing so they may have a successful session at camp. We aspire to create a camp community that is safe, inclusive and welcoming. There may be situations that arise where, despite our best efforts, continuing at camp is not in the best interest of the camper or the camp community as a whole.

We recognize that campers come to us with a range of backgrounds, home experiences and history, and that this may be reflected in behavioral situations, as well as social and emotional health while at camp. We will work through situations that arise within our level of training, and connect with parents/guardians as appropriate, depending on the scope of the situation and the individual camper's needs.

Parents/guardians of our campers should be aware of the possibility that certain behaviors or situations may present themselves while at camp, including—homesickness, behavioral and emotional struggles, isolation, bullying, anxiety, or depression. In more serious situations, we may become aware of suicidal thoughts, self-harm, eating disorders, or other mental health struggles and harmful behaviors. Our staff that work directly with campers are trained to understand and manage behavioral, emotional and mental health situations that could arise during camp. As our front-line staff, they are also trained to bring in additional support (i.e. Camp Health Provider, Camp Director, etc.) when a situation becomes harmful to the individual, the group, or when it cannot be resolved.

Although our staff demonstrate a great deal of expertise in youth development and exhibit exceptional compassion, we are not mental health professionals or social workers. Should a camper need support that goes beyond what we can safely provide, or should a situation escalate to a level where we can no longer safely find resolution for the camper, we will contact a parent/guardian and advise them that their camper can no longer stay at camp and must be picked up as soon as possible.

**Behavior:** Please see our [Camper Code of Conduct and Violations Policy](#).