

Camp Codes



Young Disciple Youth Bible Camp

Following any set of standards, of course, does not guarantee a place in God's Kingdom.

However, we have experienced the spiritual blessings that result from incorporating high standards of conduct and deportment in the YD Camp program. The camp codes are based on principles from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, as well as policies that have been shown to be beneficial to the camp in a variety of ways. We understand that there will be differences of interpretation in certain areas, and that we are all growing. Still, for the unity and well-being of the camp, we ask that all staff bring an open mind and a willingness to happily support and pattern the camp codes.

Campers will watch each staff member. Critical spirits and defiant or skeptical attitudes can spread poison throughout the camp. On the other hand, a positive and enthusiastic Christian witness will be noted, remembered, and copied. For this reason, before applying, each potential staff member should prayerfully consider each of the following areas to determine whether he or she can comfortably support the camp position.

DIET. Food on the camp menu does not include meat, dairy products, or harmful chemicals. It is also low in fats and sugars. The camp cooks go out of their way to make sure the food is tasty and appetizing. However, some campers will find it very different from anything they have had before. When staff provide an example of enthusiastic appreciation for the food, reluctant campers will be much more likely to do the same.

ENTERTAINMENT. All camp staff should have made a conscious decision to put aside any form of entertainment that leads away from the principles of God's Kingdom. Even if you refrain from such activities during camp, you can still exert a negative influence by talking enthusiastically (and too knowledgeably) about worldly music, TV shows, movies, entertainers, etc. The motto of every staff member should be the words of Philippians 4:8. We also suggest that each applicant read *The Adventist Home*, chapters 79–83, before applying.

SOCIAL RELATIONS. We encourage comfortable interchanges between staff members, however, camp staff should avoid frivolous conversations, silly laughter, inappropriate eye or bodily contact, and other marks of flirtation with others. Unmarried staff should refrain from dating/courting activity during camp time, in order to devote their time and energy to campers—not a relationship.

DRESS. "A person's character is judged by his style of dress. A refined taste, a cultivated mind, will be revealed in the choice of simple and appropriate attire" (*Evangelism*, page 672). An interesting study for all staff members would be to look up all Spirit of Prophecy references for "clothing." In brief, staff clothing should be suitable, well-fitting, economical, neat, and modest. Although clothing should be becoming, staff should avoid styles that call attention to themselves or might be a stumbling block to others. The camp dress codes are as follows:



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Staff ladies should bring sturdy skirts and dresses that allow a full stride and fall below the knee when standing or sitting. Any slits need to end below the knee. Choose denims or khakis that can withstand hiking and exercises. Pants under a fingertip-length top are appropriate for some activities. For water activities, shorts and T-shirts (over a swimsuit, if desired) may be worn. Items not allowed: sleeveless (or very short-sleeved) tops, revealing necklines, short tops exposing skin at the waistline, and sheer or form-fitting attire. Culottes and split skirts are discouraged. Other items to avoid: cosmetics, nail polish, jewelry, and gaudy hair decorations.

Staff men should bring clothing able to withstand the rigors of camp life. Items to avoid: shorts (except for water activities), tank tops, sagging or very wide-legged pants. Shirts should be tucked in; hats should not be worn backwards.

Both men and ladies should avoid any clothing containing suggestive pictures or wording, or advertising competitive sports. All staff members should be careful to avoid body odor or any other personal uncleanliness. Clothing and hair styles should not reflect fads.

COMPETITION. Competition is contrary to the principles of God's Kingdom. God instructs us to

"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another" (Romans 12:10). Teachers of classes and leaders of camp activities will seek to avoid any sort of competition between campers. Staff members should not be avid fans of competitive sports, either as participants or spectators.

WHAT IF YOU DON'T AGREE?

Some camp codes are simply codes we have chosen to apply to the YD Camp program. Others are what we believe to be God-given principles. We recognize that there may be some sincere differences of opinion in the application of these principles, particularly in the areas of diet, dress, and social relations.

If you find yourself opposed to any of the camp codes, we suggest that you prayerfully study the matter out for yourself, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. If, after doing this, you still feel you cannot joyfully comply with the camp codes with an open mind and heart, we suggest that you personally dialogue with us before you apply.

Much more important than rigidly following any external standard is having a heart open to following God in every detail of the life. This is the kind of person God can use to be instrumental in performing a real heart work in the lives of the campers. God bless you!

