

Expectations for Participation

The following are some of the basic expectations we hold for all youth and adults who participate at Mountain T.O.P.

The Mountain T.O.P. Summer Staff has overall responsibility for all activities. Therefore, camp directions and expectations given by the staff are to be followed.

Camp Attendance and Participation - Arriving late or leaving early from the camp week is NOT an option. Leaving at any time during the week and coming back to camp is also NOT AN OPTION. We design our program very carefully to ensure that all participants receive the maximum benefit from their experience. On Sunday our staffs will be breaking the community into work teams and on Saturday morning the community will have its final closure experience; missing either of these would hinder the experience for a person and the community. If there is an extreme situation, we are willing to address special cases.

Everyone (youth and adults) is expected to attend and participate in all structured activities, recreation, programs, and worships. Please do not ask us for any exceptions to this camp participation expectation. We want everyone to gain the most they can while at camp together.

Dress Code - Shirts are to be worn at all times. Shirts with beer, liquor or other possibly offensive subject matter should not be brought to camp. Additionally, halter or spaghetti-strap tops, bathing suit tops, sports bras, shorts with an inseam less than 4" and jeans with offensive holes are not appropriate and should not be brought to camp. For safety reasons, the youth and adults with Service Project are to wear long pants, closed-toe shoes and shirts with at least short sleeves during the workday. Youth and adults with Day Camp can wear shorts instead of pants. Shorts are fine at camp in the evening.

Alcohol & Drugs - Do not bring any alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs to camp. Those who bring such items can be sent home at their parent's expense.

Prescription Drugs - Sharing of prescription drugs is strictly prohibited. Those who do can be sent home at their parents' expense.

Fireworks - Do not bring fireworks into camp – these are dangerous items, especially in wooded areas.

Lights Out Policy - Your camp staff will set times for "lights out" each night, and they typically set a slightly later time on Friday night. The staff will take responsibility for the initial bed check at the designated lights out. Our expectation is that everyone will stay in his or her cabins after this time. We do not intend for the staff (nor are they able) to stay up for hours putting people back to bed and/or chasing them around camp. We ask for your group's

understanding and cooperation in this matter. We depend on the leadership and maturity of the adults present in camp for assistance. If campers are found out of their cabins, the staff will find the youth group leader and have the camper call their parents. If there is a second incident of them sneaking out, the policy is to send the camper home at their parent's expense.

Tobacco - The use of tobacco is discouraged and prohibited in some cases due to camp regulations, sensitivity and fire hazards. Our tobacco policy follows the guidelines of the United Methodist Social Principles. Anyone under the age of 18 is prohibited from smoking, using or possessing tobacco in any form during a Mountain T.O.P. camp week. Mountain T.O.P. recognizes the need to establish a designated tobacco area for those who use tobacco. This designated area is to be in a private and discreet area of camp. This is due to our desire to discourage the use of tobacco products and the need to not promote the use of tobacco as a social activity or as a part of the community process.

Electronic Devices - The use of cell phones, iPods, radios and headsets is prohibited at the work sites. We want to encourage socializing and visiting with each other and the Cumberland Mountain families. Also, we want to be sensitive to one another's musical tastes. The use of these items in camp is strongly discouraged for the same reasons. Therefore, Mountain T.O.P. asks the following as a minimum:

- No cell phone or music player usage at any work site other than the YRG driver and only in emergencies.
- No cell phone or music player usage during any Mountain T.O.P. programs, including, but not limited to limited to Daybreak, all meals, sharing, and worship.
- Cell phone or music player usage in camp should be limited to cabin areas only.

Camp Visitation Policy - All our Partners, family, and former staff members are welcome to visit our camps during program periods with prior notification and approval of the camp director. In your desire to come visit please acknowledge that part of the Mountain T.O.P. participant experience is to get away from the norms and expectations of their every day life. Mountain T.O.P. values providing this environment to its participants and discourages visitation to a point that it becomes distracting to the individual or community. For this reason, the number of visitors will be limited each evening and will be handled on a first come first serve, case by case basis. If you want to visit, please let us know as far ahead of time as possible so that we can make appropriate accommodations. Call the administrative office (931)692-3999 to schedule your visit.