

Indiana State Museum Camp Behavior Management Plan

The Indiana State Museum's Camp Program advocates good discipline and is usually positive rather than negative. Keeping children actively involved in meaningful, fun activities generally creates an environment in which problems are few and minor. Campers and parent/guardian will be provided with information regarding expectations at the beginning of camp. Camp staff will work cooperatively to create a positive climate that minimizes the potential for inappropriate behavior. When inappropriate behaviors occur, based on the circumstance, appropriate action will be taken.

Camp Rules

1. I will only leave the program area, the Indiana State Museum, and/or the State Historic Site with Museum employees or an Authorized Person.
2. I will respect fellow participants and teachers.
3. I will participate in all activities to the best of my ability.
4. I will act safely and responsibly.
5. I will have fun!

Behavior Guidelines

The following behavior guidelines have been established to ensure a successful and safe camp:

- Campers and parents/guardians will be provided with information regarding expectations at the beginning of camp.
- Staff will work cooperatively to create a positive climate that minimizes the potential for inappropriate behavior.
- Parent/guardian will be contacted in person, by email, or by telephone regarding inappropriate behavior.
- If the inappropriate behavior persists, Indiana State Museum reserves the right to limit, deny, or suspend a camper from the camp when the health and/or safety of the individual, other campers, or staff. Decisions of this nature will be based on the following behavioral criteria:
 1. Repeated and unresolved behavioral situations that require staff to intervene and take time away from the rest of the campers.
 2. Use of inappropriate language, bullying of other campers, fighting, or use of any object with intent to cause physical harm.
 3. Physical harm or contact with others.

Zero Tolerance

The camp has zero tolerance for any of the following activities. Violation of these rules will result in immediate dismissal from camp.

- Bullying
- Fighting
- Verbal Threats including weapons.
- Any other conduct that may jeopardize the safety and well-being of others.

Consequences

Consequences for any of the previously outlined behaviors will be handled according to this system:

1. **Respectful Redirection:** A behavior management strategy used by Indiana State Museum staff to calmly inform campers that their current behavior is not acceptable. Campers will receive one warning. The counselor will communicate that the behavior or action was inappropriate and undesirable and give the camper a chance to explain. If possible, this will be done in a discrete way not to draw attention from other campers.
2. **Calm Down Zone:** If behavior continues after Respectful Redirection, the camper will be asked to "sit out" to cool off and calm down (1-minute times the age of the camper; no more than 10 minutes), the calm down zone has soft seating and manipulatives to assist campers in calming down and resetting.
3. **Communication with parents:** Serious challenges will be conveyed to the parent/guardian immediately by phone. Small problems will be communicated at the end of the camp day. Parents/guardians will also be informed of any "calm down zone" period administered.
4. **Meeting With Parent/guardian:** If all the above consequences do not solve the camper's behavior, the parent/guardian will need to attend a mandatory scheduled meeting with the Camp Program Manager before attending another camp. Failure to do so may result in suspension and/or immediate withdrawal from camp(s). This meeting will cover the camper's behavior problem(s) and identify acceptable alternatives to the problem behavior(s).

Managing Behavior

- Praise is the best reward. Acknowledge good behavior.
- Communicate clearly and concisely the expectations and rules of the program.
- Be consistent.
- Never leave a camper thinking he/she can't do anything right.
- Redirect/remove the camper from the source of negative behavior. For example, explain why it is dangerous to climb on equipment and use a safe and quiet place for time out to give an overstimulated camper time to calm down.
- Do not yell at the camper, instead use a firm authoritative voice to ask the camper to stop the behavior. Often yelling is positive reinforcement for a negative situation.
- Some behaviors need to be ignored. Many times, campers are just acting silly or are seeking your attention. Observation, patience, and sensitivity will help determine whether it is a situation that needs to be dealt with or ignored.
- Take part in activities with campers, get to know them, and give them your full attention when they are speaking to you. Remember respect goes both ways!



We request both the camper and the parent/guardian to sign the Behavior Agreement to confirm that you have read this document together and acknowledge and accept the responsibility to meet these behavior expectations. Please bring this signed agreement with you to your first camp Check-In.

I have read and understood this Camper Behavior Agreement and I agree to follow camp rules. I understand that failure to comply with these rules will have consequences, which may include sitting out of activities or being sent home.

Camper's Signature _____ Date

Print the Camper's Name _____

Parent's/guardian's Signature _____ Date

Print the Parent's/guardian's Name _____