

Discovery Days Mission & Expectations

At Discovery Days our mission is to create a fun and inviting environment for those that have been adopted. At camp we all come from diverse backgrounds but one thing that everyone has in common is adoption. That commonality is what we want to focus on as the main theme of this retreat. To make sure that the mission of this camp, serving those touched by adoption, is fulfilled we have created this expectation list for campers.

Respect Others: Creating a safe environment for everyone is very important. Using hurtful words, exclusion, or physical bullying will not be tolerated. Everyone has a right to leave with the same things they arrived with, unless discussed with counselors, there will be no giving of items or stealing while at camp.

No Leaving/Guests: Once you arrive at the house you will not be able to leave unless you are given permission by Dillon Staff member, who has then communicated with family. We also ask no guest come to visit the house during the event. At night campers are asked to stay in their assigned room unless notifying a counselor.

Inviting Language: Words have power and so we ask conversations stay appropriate. We do not allow cussing or use of language that promotes injustice.

Technology: We understand that for many technologies is important for regulation and connection with home. We do feel that during activity time it will be asked to keep technology put away unless using it for music or taking pictures. At night if technology becomes a distraction or inappropriate you will be asked to turn your technology in at curfew and will not get it until breakfast the next morning.

Space: At camp it can sometimes feel overwhelming for different reasons. We respect the requests of others to take a timeout if we see that it is really needed. Please communicate that with a counselor or staff to make sure that we know how best to help!

Making Room for Everyone: There are times that two campers might have a closer relationship, whether that is a dating relationship or just close friendship. We ask that all physical and verbal interactions create an environment that is inviting to everyone around and not seclusive.

Groups of Three or Let it Be: We ask campers stay in groups of three if going somewhere without the group to protect everyone involved.

Discipline: Discipline is something that is held between counselors and involved campers. We do believe in redo's and understanding that one mistake does not define us as individuals. That everyone attending has a right to change their behavior unless it is making others unsafe.

Generally speaking, we follow this process for helping guide campers:

1. Camper will be given immediate correction from staff or counselors, giving a chance to understand that a redo is needed. The camper will be allowed to redo the action in a correct way.
2. Camper will then be given a verbal warning and logical consequence if needed.
3. Camper will have discussion with camp staff and counselor involved.
4. The program director will communicate with family if needed to discuss further action if all else is not getting clarity.

Removal from the program is a possibility depending on severity and safety of individual or other individuals.