

Good Discipline Begins With Me!

Maintaining good discipline at camp is the responsibility of every staff member – not just counselors and camp directors. Every staff member has the authority to correct and challenge campers who are saying or doing anything anywhere at any time that is contrary to generally accepted rules of good conduct. Good discipline should be maintained in classes, chapel, campfire, at meals, at play, in the cabins. In other words, there is no area of the Christian Camp environment that is exempt from good discipline.

Good discipline is extremely important to all, especially to the campers, because upon it depends the kind of instruction they will receive. Without good discipline the camp cannot discharge its primary function of guiding the Christian development of the campers. Without it, campers cannot realize their greatest opportunities for growth in the ways of the master.

In maintaining discipline, all staff may proceed with the assurance that support will be forthcoming from the camp director and the Board of Directors/Trustees. However, in order to give repeatedly the support which the staff needs, the camp director must know that the staff members' procedure has been in accordance with good educational and psychological practices.

Extreme disciplinary measures are to be taken only by the camp director. In many cases the denying of the offender some privilege which the rest of the campers enjoy will be sufficient. If some camper consistently will not cooperate in the camp program and shows no intention of fitting in to camp life, parents/guardians should be called to come get the camper. However, we should strive to appeal to the camper's fondness for camping, obligations toward other campers, sense of fair play, and try to enable them to build up a conscious awareness of what is considered right conduct. Love will win where nothing else will. Love does not mean that staff members will never become irritated at a camper's behavior. We must develop the capacity to let campers understand that we genuinely love them, though we may dislike their behavior.