

New Cell Phone Policy Summer 2023

“Camp Allen exists to create Life Changing Experiences for a Lifetime and for Eternity.”

With this mission we have implemented a new policy.

We are strongly suggesting, beginning this summer (2023) that cell phones no longer be brought to Camp Allen during camp times.

This policy change has been thoroughly discussed and prayed about by our board of directors and staff, and we feel it is in the best interest of Camp Allen, campers, and parents that this policy be implemented.

We realize that parents like to stay in communication with their children and students like to stay in touch with their friends and social media followers, however for the following reasons, we feel there needs to be a change:

1. **Phones are a growing distraction.** *Camp is designed to help campers experience life in a new way, making new friends, carrying on face to face conversations, beginning, or growing a relationship with God and trying new things and seeing the beauty of God’s creation. Campers with phones tend to miss out on a lot of what camp was designed to offer them.*
2. **Phones are expensive.** *Phones can easily become lost, stolen, or broken. Camp life is not conducive to phone care. There is a lot of activity, some of which is very wet and there are a lot of other campers around and camp simply cannot be responsible for the care or safety of a very expensive piece of equipment at camp.*
3. **Phones are not merely phones.** *Modern cell phones are cameras – both still and video. It has become a matter of safety for your camper and risk management for Camp Allen to not allow cell phones in the cabins and especially in the shower areas. Even pictures taken by accident can end up in the wrong hands or online and cause great harm and embarrassment for both campers and Camp Allen and potentially could bring legal or criminal implications as well.*
4. **Camp Allen staff will always notify parents immediately in the case of an emergency concerning a camper.** *Parents, feel free to call Camp Allen to get an update on a camper that you are concerned about. Also, campers will always have use of a camp phone or a staff phone to make a necessary call home.*

IF A PARENT STILL FEELS THAT IT IS NECESSARY FOR THEIR CHILD TO HAVE A CELL PHONE AT CAMP, THE FOLLOWING PLAN WILL BE IN PLACE: *Camper phones will be collected, labeled, and cared for by camp staff. At one or more designated times during the day/week campers will be allowed to make calls or send texts. Phones will then be collected and kept safe until next designated use time. Phones will then be given back as campers are checking out to go home on last day of camp. Thank you for your understanding and support for this new policy!*