

FCSEC Cell Phone Policy

Attending FCSEC gives campers a chance to experience a week on a college campus learning new and exciting things and making new friends. Our busy camp schedule affords little time for cell phone usage. A cell phone ringing while campers are in class, during group activities or at other inappropriate times, is disrespectful to camp staff and very distracting to other campers. If a camper gets homesick the last thing needed is a method to facilitate easy access to home and if our camp counselors are unaware of this, we cannot assist your camper in working through homesickness. If a camper is spending their day texting and calling existing friends, rather than making new ones, the camper is not getting everything out of the FCSEC experience. If we expect a week of summer camp to help a child make new friends, develop independence, self-esteem, and problem solve, we have to give them the room to take those steps on their own.

FCSEC is a busy and intense program best experienced without the distraction of cell phones; we strongly recommend leaving cell phones at home. For those parents who choose to allow campers to bring cell phones to camp, cell phones are to be turned in to the camper's respective counselor during registration. The phone will be available for campers to check out and use at designated times. Cell phone policies will be strictly enforced and we ask that all campers and parents adhere to this policy. Campers who do not adhere to camp cell phone policies will have their cell phones confiscated until check out. Public telephones are available in the residence hall and will require a phone card or the camper may call collect. In addition, parents are able to mail, fax, or email your camper during camp. In the event of an emergency, camp staff will provide phone access to campers.

The majority of camps do not allow cell phones. Cell phones are expensive and can get lost or damaged and the camp environment is not kind to such items. Cell phones have built-in cameras/recording devices/data/social media access. At some camps around the country, campers have secretly taken photographs of other campers or staff during inappropriate times and have displayed them publicly. FCSEC does not want this to be a part of an FCSEC camp experience.

I, _____, understand that if I choose to bring a cell phone to camp that it will be turned in to my
(Print name of Camper)
counselor during registration and will only be available for use at designated times. If I violate this policy I understand that the cell phone will be taken and returned at the conclusion of camp.

(Signature of Camper)

(Date)

I, _____, have read the above cell phone policy and agree to the guidelines stated, including that the
(Parent Name)
cell phone will be kept in the possession of my camper's counselor and will be accessible to my camper during designated cell phone usage times. I understand the cell phone will be taken and returned at the conclusion of Camp if the policy is violated. If you need to reach your camper **in an emergency situation**, contact the Camp Office between the hours of 9:00 AM and 10:30 PM by calling (540) 365-5126 (This number is operational during camp sessions only/If there is no answer, please leave a message). After 10:30 PM, in the event of an **EMERGENCY**, you can reach camp staff through the Campus Police at (540) 365-4444, (identify yourself as a parent of a FCSEC camper).

(Signature of Parent)

(Date)

Want to stay in touch with your child?

Here are some tips from the American Camp Association to help parents keep in touch while their children are at camp.

- Give your child pre-addressed, stamped envelopes or postcards he or she can use to write home.
- Send a note or a postcard to the camp before your child arrives so there will be a personalized touch of home waiting for them. (FCSEC has a table during registration for parents to write notes to campers that will be delivered Sunday night.)
- Care packages are always appreciated. Check with your camp director about what items may or may not be included. Some camps request that parents do not send food or other items.
- Avoid mentioning how much parents, siblings, friends or pets miss your child. While this is meant to express how much you love them, it may cause unnecessary homesickness and worry over loved ones. (See FCSEC Homesickness)
- Discuss communication options with the camp director. Some camps allow you to send emails to your child, which will be printed out and delivered with the mail. Some also have websites or Facebook pages where they upload photos and videos of camp activities to let families know what campers are up to. (FCSEC Acceptance Packet information outlines contact options with your camper—Campers are able to receive emails, faxes, and snail mail throughout the week of camp. FCSEC posts photos of activities during camp week on FCSEC Facebook page.)