



DISCOVERY CAMP CODE OF CONDUCT

At the Buffalo Museum of Science and Tifft Nature Preserve, the goal of our Discovery Camps is to create a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable environment for learning and camp activities. In pursuit of this goal, the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences (BMS and Tifft) asks all campers, parent/guardians, volunteers, and staff to act in an appropriate manner while participating in our camp activities as outlined in the Discovery Camp Code of Conduct. Parent/guardians and campers will review and sign a Character Pledge prior to the start of camp. This Character Pledge allows all campers to understand the expectations set by BSNS for their conduct at Camp.

BSNS DISCOVERY CAMP CHARACTER PLEDGE

- I pledge to be my best self at all times.
- I pledge to respect myself, my fellow campers, and my counselors.
- I pledge to be responsible for my own words and actions.
- I pledge to be honest at all times.
- I pledge to embrace the differences that make everyone unique.
- I pledge to assist in creating a positive environment.
- I pledge to be kind, caring, and cooperative.
- I pledge to value nature, artifacts, and camp materials.
- I pledge to explore, discover, and HAVE FUN!

Our code of conduct strictly forbids any speech or actions that may harm another person, that cause another camper or staff to be reasonably afraid, or that compromises the safety of themselves or the camp group. This includes:

- Aggressive or inappropriate language including name calling, yelling, swearing, or negative/bullying remarks (i.e. "stupid," "idiot," "loser," etc.)
- Discriminatory remarks or language based on race, class, sexuality, gender identity or expression, religion, nationality, or disability
- Physical contact with another camper, guest, or BSNS volunteer or staff member in a rude, violent, or threatening manner
- Any sexual activity or suggestion of, independently or with another person
- Verbal, written, or otherwise gestured harassment or intimidation
- Damage or theft of the property of another camper, a guest, volunteer, staff member, or the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences
- Possession of any weapons or illicit substances
- Wandering/leaving the group or entering unauthorized areas without permission
- Repeated defiant, insubordinate, or disrespectful behavior to BSNS volunteers and staff

Each camper is responsible for both their own safety and the safety of the camp at large. Campers should take responsibility for their actions and avoid situations that may make themselves or others uncomfortable or afraid. If a camper feels threatened or intimidated by someone's behavior, they are encouraged to ask that person to stop. If the behavior is continued, they should talk to a Camp Counselor or Camp Leadership (BMS Assistant Camp Coordinator, BMS Camp Coordinator, Tifft Programs & Experience Manager, Tifft Program Coordinator). Our Camp staff are trained to respond to, mediate, and report any violations of our Code of Conduct.



CAMPER DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE

In the case of any report of a violation of the Code of Conduct, it is the duty of the Discovery Camp Counselors and Camp Leadership to investigate the incident. If it is found that there was indeed a violation of one or more areas of the Code of Conduct, the following steps will be implemented. In serious or severe cases, a camper's behavior may warrant immediate dismissal or potential removal from future camp days/programs. In instances of verbal or physical harm, camper will be removed immediately from the camp group, and a phone call home will be made. The camper may return to their group after mediation or may be asked to wait for immediate pick-up.

The steps of the Camper Discipline Procedure are as follows:

1. Counselor(s) will provide a verbal warning(s) to the camper and make attempts to redirect and support positive behaviors.
2. If no improvement is observed, the Counselor elevates the situation to Camp Leadership's attention. Camp Leadership will gather information from Counselors/BSNS staff involved.
3. Camp Leadership speaks to the camper, reminding them of the Character Pledge and asking for their account of events. Camper is informed during this discussion that the next reported issue will result in a phone call home.
4. At pick-up, the parent/guardian will be notified of the camper's failure to follow the Camp Character Pledge and Code of Conduct.
5. Should further issues arise, Counselors report them to Camp Leadership.
6. Camp Leadership will remove the camper from the camp group for a private phone call home. Together with the camper, Camp Leadership calls the primary contact on camper's Health Form and describes the issues to the parent/guardian. The camper may speak to the parent/guardian if requested by either adult or camper.
7. Depending on the severity of the behavior, the camper may be sent home for the remainder of the day and allowed to return the following day.
8. If another incident takes place on a subsequent day, the camper may be dismissed from the remainder of the camp week without refund.
9. It may be decided that it is the best for the camper and/or the Discovery Camp program for the camper not to return to BMS or Tifft camp for subsequent weeks. Refunds may be granted only when in accordance with the BSNS Cancellation Policy.

DISCOVERY CAMP CANCELLATION POLICY

The BSNS will not refund camp program fees for cancellations made less than 30 days prior to the start of camp. Cancellations made more than 30 days prior to the start of camp will incur a \$50 administrative fee [fee is per child, per week], which will be deducted from the amount refunded.

The Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences will not give refunds – partial or full – for any cases of dismissal due to camper misconduct.

Thank you for reviewing with your camper and helping to maintain a safe environment for all. Questions can be directed to bmscamps@sciencebuff.org or tifftcamps@sciencebuff.org.