



Dear Parent:

The importance of the physical and emotional safety of each and every camper and staff member is paramount to our camp. We try to identify critical concerns that are important to our campers and staff. We take the issues of bullying and violence in our culture very seriously. The purpose of this letter is to talk about an initiative that we will be undertaking for the summer and beyond to address this issue.

Bullying is when one or more people exclude, tease, taunt, gossip, hit, kick, or put down another person with the intent to hurt another. Bullying happens when a person or group of people want to have power over another and use their power to get their way, at the expense of someone else. Bullying can also happen through cyberspace: through the use of e-mails, text messaging, instant messaging, and other less direct methods.

“Camps Take a Stand” is an anti-bullying initiative that is aimed at taking appropriate steps towards managing this problem. Although we have always made a conscious effort to prevent bullying in our camp community, bullying itself has transformed into more than its traditional definition. This summer we are trying to stop bullying behavior with different tools and techniques that will help us prevent such behavior.

As we get ready for our summer at camp, we thought you should know about the lengths to which we are prepared to go in order to ensure that we are successful in delivering these initiatives to our camp this summer and provide physical and emotional safety to all. We now have an Anti-Bullying Policy and tools for staff training to reach this goal.

We encourage you, as parents, to please let us know about any particular bullying concerns you may have for your child or any off-season, camp-related emails, instant messages, or text-messages that may have led to exclusion or meanness towards your child by somebody else in camp. We want to ensure that this problem can be managed by a strong partnership between our camp and you.

If you have any feedback for us that you think would be helpful, we would appreciate hearing from you.

Below are two signature lines: one for you (the parent/guardian), and one for your child that is coming to camp. We require both of these signatures prior to arriving at Camp Gideon this summer. Because we are taking the new Anti-Bullying Policy very seriously, please know that if this policy is breached in any way, we hold the authority to send the involved child, or children, home. In addition, we will not offer refund in this case. We hope and pray that we will not have to get to this point, but we need to be clear on the seriousness of the matter.

Parent: _____ Date _____

Child: _____ Date _____

We look forward to having your child with us at camp this summer!

Sincerely,
The Camp Gideon Leadership Team