

Please leave cell phones at home.

Consistent with our goals of promoting self-reliance and new social connections, we do not allow campers to have cell phones or devices that connect to the internet with a cellular connection at Appel Farm.

I don't feel like I have to worry about being in contact with my daughter. The Camp Directors are great, and if she has a problem, they'll call me. — New Camp Parent

I knew it was against the rules when I packed my son's cell phone, and not only did he not need it, but he was worried about having to call me. We are leaving it at home next summer! — Camp Parent

I like that she has a break from the constant cell phone use. She gets to fully experience camp, trust her counselors, and learn what life was like before the cell phone! — Camp Parent



I like not having my cell phone at camp. I can separate my school world from my camp world, and I don't have to worry about all the school drama. I just focus on my camp friends! — Camper, age 16

It's one less thing to charge and lose. I don't have to constantly check my texts! — Camper, age 14

My Counselors always helped me when I had a problem, and I knew that if I was really upset, I could talk to a Camp Director about calling my mom. — Camper, age 10

Parents

Giving your child over to the care of other people is perhaps the greatest act of trust, and we do everything we can to earn and keep that trust. The fundamental problem with campers having cell phones at camp, is that contacting you by cell phone means that your child does not trust us to help them with their problems. We appeal to you, our camp parents, to partner with us to ensure that your children will have the safest, fullest experience possible.

- 🍏 Using a cell phone to call a parent at home is not the best way to get help. Counselors and Camp Directors are in a much better position to quickly address camper concerns before they become larger problems.
- 🍏 Appel Farm has a crisis response plan that does not include campers having cell phones.
- 🍏 In their short stay at Appel Farm, campers will grow and learn to solve some of their own problems, and to trust their Counselors to help them with this transition toward independence and greater self-reliance.

Campers

We promise to call your parents if you are having trouble adjusting to camp, if any health issues arise, or if you have an urgent message for them. In return, we ask that you allow us to work with you to resolve other camp issues like mild homesickness, trouble getting along with bunkmates, getting the most out of your classes, and finding your missing socks!

- 🍏 If you have a problem or a question, if you are uncomfortable about something, or you have an issue that you would like to discuss, go to your Bunk Counselor. You can also tell one of your Instructors, your Bunk Head, the Head Counselor, or a Camp Director. We are all here to ensure that you have the best summer possible, and we have the best resources to quickly solve your problems, and get information to your parents!
- 🍏 Aside from the fact that cell phones are expensive and may be lost or stolen, and that the camp environment is tough on them, we don't even get clear reception at Appel Farm!
- 🍏 You will get more out of your camp experience if you focus on your camp friends and classes!

Please review our Technology Policy as a family, and agree to leave your child's cell phone at home this summer!