

## **SPARC CAMPER CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **PARENTS/GUARDIANS PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

In order for SPARC Camp (operated by the Corporation of Lorne Park Baptist Church) to ensure that all campers have a memorable and enjoyable experience at camp, we ask parents/guardians to review the list of behaviors expected of campers.

You will notice that the expected behaviors are age specific so there are different expectations for the Blaze and Blast campers than there are for the Adventure campers.

At the end of this Code of Conduct, there is a section which outlines our philosophy for discipline and the three-strike system for discipline used by all SPARC Camps.

#### **Code of Conduct: Blaze and Blast Camps**

Following are the expectations for all Blaze and Blast Campers while at the church or on field trips:

1. Treat fellow campers and staff with respect
2. Avoid all fighting, hitting and swearing
3. Follow the rules for each activity as they are explained by the staff member
4. Listen carefully when activity instructions are being given and don't interrupt until it is time for questions
5. Do not damage property, otherwise you and your parents will be responsible for any repairs or replacement
6. Be positive and encouraging to your fellow campers during games and activities
7. Be safe when doing activities. This means no showing off or taking unnecessary risks
8. Have fun!

#### **Code of Conduct: Adventure Camp**

Following are the expectations for all Adventure Campers while at the church or on field trips:

1. Respect God, His word, and the teachings of SPARC camps
2. Staff members are to be respected and followed
3. No coarse or vulgar language
4. No fighting or hitting campers or staff
5. Do not damage property, otherwise you and your parents will be responsible for any repairs or replacement
6. No put-downs
7. No inappropriate affection between anyone
8. No drugs, alcohol, explosives, fire starters, weapons, or illegal substances

**Note Adventure Camp:** If any of these rules are broken, a verbal warning needs to be issued. If rules 4, 5, 7, or 8 are broken, it will result with an immediate strike. If the other rules are broken, a strike can be issued at the discretion of the SPARC Manager.

## **SPARC's Discipline Process – The Three Strike System**

Positive discipline is a discipline model that focuses on the positive points of behaviour. It is an open-ended model that promotes positive decision-making, teaching expectations to our campers and encouraging positive behaviours. The focus of positive discipline is to establish reasonable limits and to help our campers take responsibility to stay within these limits and learn how to remedy the situation when they don't.

SPARC camps believe that the best form of behaviour management is positive and *preventive* and this is best achieved by offering a good program. Therefore, all necessary steps are taken to help children avoid getting into situations that might require a disciplinary action. These include: clearly explaining all games, activities, and expectations to children, consistent and effective supervision, kind and friendly reminders to children who are having difficulty adjusting to the SPARC systems, using positive reinforcement to affirm appropriate behaviour, and generally patient and tolerant demeanors on the part of staff members.

SPARC realizes that discipline becomes ineffective with overuse. Therefore, we attempt to reserve taking such action for situations where it is truly necessary. Some form of behavioural intervention may be necessary for the following:

- hitting, pushing, shoving, kicking, etc. another camper or staff member
- swearing
- disrespectful behaviour
- disregard of rules
- failure to cooperate with the SPARC program
- behaviours distracting to teaching or instruction (talking during sessions, etc.)
- behaviours which lead to the destruction or damage of property at the park, Church location or that of a SPARC camper or staff member (in the case of property damage, parents are responsible for repair or replacement of the damaged item)
- any other behaviours harmful to the emotional or physical well-being of any camper or staff member

Disciplinary action will only be undertaken by hired SPARC staff, and at no point should a helper be disciplining a camper. Helpers will refer situations where a behavioural intervention is necessary to counsellors.

Counsellors should only be dealing with minor behavioural incidents. Major concerns or extreme behaviors should be directed to the appropriate manager, particularly in instances where time outs or strikes may be necessary.

Extreme behaviours that will result in a strike include the following:

- fighting/hitting
- extreme disrespect
- running out of boundaries
- harassment of staff or campers (sexual, physical, emotional, racial)

- stealing
- repeated and continued actions for which other disciplinary actions are not working

In the event of extreme misbehaviours, SPARC uses a three-strike system for discipline. The first serious action receives one strike, the second incident receives a second strike, and the third misbehaviour receives a third strike. This process can be escalated by the General Director if needed, ie. Two or three strikes at once. The three-strike system works as follows:

**ONLY THE MANAGERS OR THE GENERAL DIRECTOR CAN GIVE STRIKES.**

**Strike #1:** The counsellor refers the camper to a manager to discuss the behavioural incident and the manager will determine whether the camper will receive a strike and if the behaviour continues a second strike will be given and the parent contacted. The camper will be counselled by the manager to ensure that the misbehaviour can be avoided in future and so the camper has a clear understanding as to why the behaviour was not acceptable and a strike was given.

**Strike #2:** The manager will bring the camper to the General Director; the parent will be contacted and the parent and child will be reminded of the consequences should there be further problems. The General Director will work with the parent and child at this point to develop a behaviour plan to avoid a third strike.

**Strike #3:** The parent will be notified and the child will be sent home for the rest of the week by the General Director if the misbehaviour continues

**Managers must record Strikes in the camp’s behavior log that will be submitted to the General Director.**

After consultation with the staff, it is within the General Director’s best judgement as to whether the camper will be allowed to return to camp later that summer.

**Prohibited Disciplinary Actions - Staff**

No staff member at SPARC may use any of the following disciplinary actions:

- hitting, spanking, etc
- yelling in anger
- withholding food
- physical calisthenics (e.g. push-ups)
- shaming behaviours

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding any aspect of our Code of Conduct, please do not hesitate to contact our office and speak with our General Director.