



Two Sentinels Girl Scout Camp

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REMOVING A CAMPER FROM A TRIP

Sometimes, unfortunate circumstances dictate that a camper or staff member be removed from a dayhike or backpacking trip. This does not include evacuation of the entire unit; should an entire unit need to be removed from a trip, please follow standard evacuation communications and procedures.

Possible reasons for removal of a camper or staff member would be:

1. Unsafe behavior after being reminded and warned, such as wandering away from the group or climbing rocks
2. Risky personal behavior, including avoiding food or sleep
3. Inappropriate behavior, including wearing unsafe footwear or clothing, or indecent exposure or interaction with the public
4. Injury or illness
5. Emergency at home
6. Behavior that is disruptive to the point where it requires more staff attention than is appropriate or safe for the rest of the group

Should removal be in question, consider the following:

1. Is the behavior intentional, or is the camper/staff member acting out of ignorance of our camp rules and expectations?
2. Have I reminded the camper/staff member of our rules and expectations, and if so, does the behavior continue?
3. Would removal from the trail or trip prove to be more disruptive or unsafe for the rest of the group than additional intervention?

Remember:

1. Having a camper or staff member removed from the trip is not a reflection of your poor staffing ability.
2. Sometimes removal from a trip or trail is a valuable learning experience in itself.
3. Our ultimate goal is a successful camp experience for all girls; you have a duty to all your campers, and one camper's behavior may unjustly diminish the positive experience of the rest.
4. Safety is your number one priority. Regardless of how you may feel about removing a camper or staff member from a trip or trail, you must make a decision based primarily on the safety of the person in question, the rest of the group, and yourself.

If removal becomes necessary, please do the following:

1. Communicate directly with a director; do not leave a message with a cook or anyone else answering the phone. Wait for her if she is elsewhere in camp; she will always be reachable via walkie-talkie.
2. Make arrangements for the safe supervision of all campers while you communicate with camp. It is best to communicate privately, away from the group; however, if the person in question is a flight risk or needs one-on-one supervision, you may be required to supervise the rest of the group while you make your call. Remain respectful and professional in your choice of words.
3. If you are out of cell range, make arrangements to communicate with nearby authorities who may relay a rendezvous request to a camp director. Your walkie-talkies have a 2-mile range. If necessary, travel to your last known spot of cell reception.
4. Keep all campers and staff safe while you wait for your rendezvous, both emotionally and physically. If travel is necessary to a rendezvous point, be sure proper supervision ratios are maintained; this may mean taking two additional campers with you to the rendezvous spot in addition to the person being removed. It is best to take another staff member, if leaving one staff member with the rest of the group does not violate appropriate supervision ratios. Second best choice is to take at least one "staff kid" with you.
5. Pack adequate water and food for your journey to your rendezvous point, if appropriate.