

The Center

**The Chicago Southwest Suburban Community
Parish and Community Center Foundation**

12700 Southwest Highway • Palos Park, Illinois 60464

Telephone: (708) 361-3650 • Fax: (708) 361-2811

www.thecenterpalos.org

email: admin@thecenterpalos.org



The Wayside Chapel

DAVID F. SANDERS, Executive Director

REV. NANCY M. NEMETH, Pastoral Director

A special letter to campers and their parents at The Center, regarding...

A Commitment to Live Cooperatively...

The Center's Farm and Ranch Camp programs are an opportunity to live, learn, work, play, and grow in a special environment where everyone and everything is cared for and respected. This is something our camping program takes great pride in and have embraced for over 80 years.

Modern American culture is challenging. We are surrounded by images of life in the fast lane. TV programs, movies, news, and modern music often promote an irreverent disrespectful, sometimes violent, view of people and traditional values and ideals. Our society invites us to live a high and fast lifestyle which can jeopardize the foundations on which compassionate and cooperative character is built.

The Center is quite a contrast to that high and fast culture. Our programs promote a high respect and concern for all people and all of nature. We are asking you to discuss this code of conduct as a family and to make a commitment to uphold these values, behaviors and policies which are expected of young people at The Center.

At The Center we want every camper to have the best camp session possible; full of fun, learning and growth. To ensure that we maintain a relationally safe environment and each camper is free to experience camp life to its fullest, we cannot tolerate any behavior that takes that opportunity away from other campers. We will be addressing all incidents such as bullying and irresponsible behavior seriously, and will train the staff to recognize and deal effectively with such behavior. Understanding that camp is for ALL campers, any behavior deemed by the camp to be outside of the camper code of conduct and/or unmanageable may result in any or all of the following: 1. Meeting with the cabin counselor, program director, or camp director to discuss the behavior. 2. A telephone call home to the parent/guardian to discuss the behavior. 3. Being dismissed from the camp program.

Farm and Ranch Campers Agree to:

- Show respect to others, and treat them as well as I would like to be treated. I will try to be a friend to all.
- Show respect and care to all farm animals and nature.
- Have FUN, but never at the expense of others.
- Respect the rights and privacy of others and treat others with courtesy and consideration.
- Communicate in an appropriate manner, which means I must not use foul language or gestures, harsh words or tone of voice.
- Resolve all conflicts through talking and use of good communication.
- Conduct myself responsibly. I understand that unwelcome teasing or other unkind behaviors are not allowed.
- Refrain from deliberately causing bodily harm to other campers or staff. I understand that pushing, kicking, hitting or fighting are not acceptable and will not be tolerated.
- Respect the property of others and camp, which includes no stealing, property damage, graffiti, or vandalism.
- Refrain from all physical displays of affection and understand that gestures of a romantic nature are not allowed under any circumstance.
- Be fully responsible for my actions and understand that irresponsible behavior will result in disciplinary action or dismissal from camp.
- Dress appropriately – no clothing with alcohol or drug related slogans or vulgarity and make sure all parts that should be covered, are covered.
- Uphold the technology free camp environment which includes no cell phones.
- Uphold the drug, alcohol, tobacco free environment of camp.
- Know and follow the rules of camp.
- Have lots of FUN, learn, grow, and have a GREAT time!

I'll do my part to help make camp fun for everyone! I have read and agree to live within the policy as stated above.