



Cell Phone Policy at Vraj Camps

In today's world, technology is unavoidable. It's everywhere. Everyone including parents and children depend on it for education, social interactions, and entertainment. While technology is essential, we as parents also know that face to face social interactions, outdoor activities, and technology free time are equally essential. At Vraj camps, the program is designed to provide children with a week of technology free experience, filled with face to face communications, interactive learning, team sports, and fun activities.

A strict cell phone policy is established and will be adhered to by volunteers, counselors, and campers. This also includes smart watches and tablets.

Campers:

Campers are NOT permitted to possess a cell phone or any cellular devices for any reason at camp.

- **Consent:** Parents will have to sign consent at the beginning of camp that their child is not carrying a cell phone with him/her. Parents also will sign a statement of understanding during camper registration.
- **Violation:** Any camper caught violating this policy will have their cell phone confiscated. The parent will be required to pay \$500 when picking up the child from Camp and receive the phone back.
- **Consequences:** If deemed necessary by the Camp Director, the camper may be asked to leave camp and/or may not be allowed to attend camp the following year.
- **In case of emergency:** All parents will be provided an email address that they can contact the Director and/or the Associate Director in case of emergency. Similarly, the Director and/or the Associate Director will contact the parent in case the child in case of emergency or if the child is extremely home-sick.
- **Camp-fire:** Campers can bring campfire music on a flash drive. Make sure to label the drive with a camper name.
- **Pictures:** Thousands of pictures and videos are taken at camp and made accessible to camp attendees via www.vrajyouth.net. Campers can bring a camera to take pictures when they dress-up for Rajbhog and Garba. Vraj or Vraj Youth Committee will not be responsible for lost or stolen cameras.

Counselors:

- **Cell Phone Check In:** Counselors are permitted to bring their cell phone to camp. However, they must check their phone with the Director/ Associate Director on the first day of camp.
- **Cell Phone Check Out:**
 - Counselors can pick their phones after Counselor/Volunteer Meeting every night and return the phones back to the Director/Associate Director after Counselors meeting every night.



- Counselors will be allowed to pick up their cell phones during skit prep time to help campers practice for campfire. Phones must be returned at the end of skit prep. Camp laptop will be available to plug in the flash drives that campers bring with campfire music.
- **Violation:** Any counselor who fails to turn in his/her cell phone and is caught with it in his/her possession outside of the allowed check-out/check-in time will have their phone confiscated. The counselor will not be able to use the cell phone for the remainder of the week. The counselor will have to pay \$500 at the end of Camp to receive the phone back.
- **Consequences:** If deemed necessary by the Camp Director, the counselor may be asked to leave camp and/or may not be allowed to attend camp the following year.
- **Pictures:** Thousands of pictures and videos are taken at camp by camp photographer/videographer. Phones will not be provided to take pictures. Counselors can bring a camera to take pictures when they dress-up for Rajbhog and Garba. Vraj or Vraj Youth Committee will not be responsible for lost or stolen camera.

Volunteers:

- Volunteers are permitted to carry their cell phones, but they should NOT have them out at any time except during free time or unless needed for an emergency.
- **Violation:** Any volunteer caught violating this policy may be warned by the Director, Associate Director, or any other volunteer.
- **Consequences:** If deemed necessary by the Camp Director, the volunteer may be asked to leave camp and/or may not be allowed to attend camp the following year.
- **Pictures:** Thousands of pictures and videos are taken at camp by camp photographer/videographer. Phones should not be used to take pictures except for Rajbhog, Garba, and Friday night campfires. At these occasions, volunteers should not single out and take pictures with their children. As per handbook, all campers should be treated equally at all times.

Director/Associate Director/Shoppers:

- Director/Associate Director may carry a cell phone at all times but only use it to conduct camp business except during free time or in case of an emergency.

All Camp Attendees:

- Anyone using cellular communication features or photographs (camera, audio recording, text messaging, social media, emailing, etc.) for unprofessional and inappropriate communication (i.e. harassment, bullying, threats, spreading rumors, etc.) at or after camps will be severely dealt with by Director, Associate Director or Vraj Youth Committee.
- Vraj network CANNOT be used to connect a personal cell phone to the internet.
- Anyone and everyone is empowered to hold others accountable to the cell phone policy