

# Camper Expectations

Please help us set your camper(s) up for success by reviewing the following information before submitting a camper application. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about whether Camp Fins & Friends is the right experience for your camper(s) this summer. We are here to help!

## **Essential Criteria for Participation in Camp Fins & Friends:**

- Campers are expected to contribute to a safe camp environment, using respectful language and appropriate physical behavior.
- Campers are expected to function in a group setting in a positive and cooperative manner that displays tolerance and respect for self and others.
- Campers are expected to follow instructions from counselors and refrain from behaviors that pose a risk to self or others.
- Campers are expected to maintain a positive attitude when participating in activities with their group.

## **Camper Considerations**

Camp Fins & Friends does not specialize in serving campers with special needs, including learning disabilities, physical disabilities, trauma histories, and/or social-emotional challenges. However, we strongly believe in the value of inclusion, and are happy to make any accommodations the best we can. The more we know, the better prepared we will be to make camp a successful experience for your camper.

## **Camper Expectations (please share with your child!)**

- Be safe at all times
- Be respectful of yourself, your counselors, your fellow campers, St. Louis Aquarium property and our animal friends.
- Stay with your counselors and listen to them at all times. (Remember: your counselors' #1 goal is to keep you safe!)
- Tell your counselors right away if you are upset about something or if you need help. They are here for you!

- Be patient, tolerant, and include others.
- Treat others with kindness, just as you would like to be treated.
- Keep your lunch food to yourself (no sharing or swapping with others!)
- Be willing to try new things, and give every activity your best effort.
- HAVE FUN!

**Discipline Policy:**

1. If a child is unable to comply with the behavior expectations, the instructor/assistant instructor will speak to the child to find a solution together.
2. A time-out may be given if the child continues to not meet behavior expectations. The number of minutes of time-out will not exceed the child's age in years. Time-outs are always supervised by an adult.
3. A conference will be held by the summer camp staff If the child is still unable to comply with the behavior expectations, the Summer Camps Coordinator will speak directly with the guardian to develop and implement strategies to help with success.
4. After a reasonable amount of time and effort has been made, the individual may be asked to forego the summer camp experience without a refund until alternative behaviors are learned.

**Behaviors that may result in immediate dismissal include but are not limited to:**

- Any action that could threaten or pose a direct threat to the physical/emotional safety of the child, other children, staff, or program animals
- Fighting
- Possession of a weapon of any kind
- Vandalism or destruction of Aquarium property or property of others
- Sexual misconduct
- Possession of or use of alcohol or controlled substances unless under the prescription of a doctor
- Biting