

Camp Quality USA Outside Contact and Communication Policy

(adopted May 2023, updated January 2025)



The purpose of this policy is to increase safety standards and provide equitable camper experiences for all participants. Families, volunteers, and employees will be notified of this policy on an annual basis.

- **Internet, written and phone communication, and in-person gatherings between campers and volunteers/employees are prohibited outside of official Camp Quality USA programs.** Camp is designed to be a special experience that has a beginning and an end. Appropriate relationships and positive experiences with our programs will create memorable experiences for our campers. We know that strong relationships are built at camp; however, Camp Quality USA cannot monitor or screen internet, written and phone communications, or private gatherings. This policy protects both our campers and volunteers/employees.
- **Internet communication** is defined as engaging in any internet or app-based activity between campers and volunteers/employees. These activities include, but are not limited to: email, teleconferencing, instant messaging, and social media applications (e.g., Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, TikTok). Volunteers and employees should not accept, invite, or 'friend' campers into private or personal online profiles or participate in internet communication.
- **Phone communication** is defined as engaging in any phone-based communication between campers and volunteers/employees. These activities include, but are not limited to, texting and phone calls.
- **A gathering** is defined as engaging in any in-person activity that is not organized, sponsored, or approved by Camp Quality with campers during non-program times.

Camp Quality USA has no control over the decisions made by parents regarding their children's social interactions. Camp Quality USA prohibits visits between campers and volunteers/employees. However, if the parent or guardian of a camper decides they would like to facilitate a supervised visit between their child and a volunteer or employee, they may do so at their discretion. This scenario must be initiated by the parent or guardian, and not the volunteer/employee or camper themselves. The volunteer/employee is not required to participate and should do so only if comfortable with the visit. The parent or guardian must be present and actively supervising the visit at all times.

Volunteers and employees are prohibited from releasing their personal contact information (phone number, email address, mailing address, social media handles, etc.) to campers, nor should campers offer their personal contact information with any volunteer or employee.

If it is learned that a volunteer/employee is not compliant with this policy, it could result in termination of employment and/or ineligibility to volunteer for Camp Quality USA. Additionally, if it is learned that a camper participant is not compliant with this policy, it could result in their ineligibility to attend future Camp Quality USA camps and programs.

CAMP QUALITY USA

Arkansas ★ Central Missouri ★ Greater Kansas City ★ Heartland ★ Illinois ★ Kentuckiana
Louisiana ★ Michigan ★ New Jersey ★ Northwest Missouri ★ Ohio ★ Ozarks ★ Texas

5455 Gull Road, Suite D # 246 | Kalamazoo, MI 49048 | 314-789-2652 | camp@campqualityusa.org