



We pride ourselves in being able to help our campers step outside of their comfort zone and try new things at Camp Easterseals Nebraska. Our culture has become increasingly ‘plugged’ into a massive, virtual community. Electronics can be both a helpful and useful tool, but they can also distract us from living and enjoying the ‘now’. As a result, we encourage campers to limit their use of electronics while at camp.

What does it mean to be “UNPLUGGED” at Camp Easterseals Nebraska? Simple! It means our staff will help our campers balance the need for the tools that technology provides with their need for real-life social interaction. It means discerning when to put the phone away and when to whip it out for that amazing picture or to look up how to sign (language) “That was awesome!” It means having the best time possible at camp.

Thank you for helping us to build a safe and extraordinary atmosphere at camp by cooperating with our Electronics and Social Media Policy!



## **Camp, Respite, and Recreation**

### **Camper Personal Electronics and Social Media Policy**

Updated: April 2017

In order to provide a safe environment for all campers and staff, to encourage campers and staff to be as engaged as possible with their peers, leaders, and environment, and to enable staff and campers to improve their social skills, environmental awareness, and to try new things while at camp the following policy for electronics are set from henceforth:

1. Electronics are permitted at camp at the risk of its owner and/or camper's guardian. Easterseals Nebraska will not replace any lost, stolen, or damaged electronics.
2. Electronic usage shall be used only during designated cabin times, at the discretion of the camp counselor and directors. Exceptions to this rule are as follows:
  - Electronics such as radios or cell phones may be used at any point of time as a tool to calm camper down or as a de-escalation tool.
  - Cameras and camera features on phones/tablets may be used to take pictures outside of cabin times (for example, during meals, during programming activities etc.), however, campers shall not use phones/tablets for other reasons outside of cabin time (for example, games or surfing the web).
  - Any other extraordinary circumstance is permitted on request after approval from directors.
3. In order to respect camper privacy and dignity, photos and videos may not be taken while inside cabins. If a camper wants a picture while inside a cabin, they should step outside with a counselor to take the picture.
4. To respect camper privacy and to encourage camper engagement with other campers, live streaming is not allowed on social media while at camp without permission from the Director of Camp, Respite, and Recreation.
5. Camp Counselors and Directors reserve the right to confiscate any electronics that are being misused or have become a distraction to the camper's experience. They will be locked away in the Health Hut and taken out during designated times for the camper to use or during check-out.
6. Staff shall not share any photos of any camper to family, friends, on web postings (such as websites or blogs), or on personal social media. However, staff may click 'Share' on any Easterseals Nebraska Facebook or Instagram photos.

7. Staff shall not seek campers via social media.
8. Staff shall not communicate with camper's families via their personal cell-phone or email when camp is in session. If families want regular updates of their camper, they must speak to a member of the leadership team to make arrangements.
9. Staff reserve the right to deny social media requests from campers and camp families on their personal accounts. Social media relationships are discouraged between staff and campers/camp families. It is the responsibility of the respective staff member to obtain written permission from the camper's guardian, when applicable, to communicate with a camper via social media.
10. Staff are permitted to communicate via phone, email, or postal service with a camper's guardian after summer camp sessions have ended (ie, to provide in-home respite, keep in touch etc). It is the responsibility of the respective staff member to obtain written permission from the camper's guardian to communicate with a camper. Staff reserve the right to turn down a request from a camper or camper family to keep in touch.
11. Staff must follow any additional policies laid forth by The Visiting Nurse Association. These policies are included in the Staff Handbook given to staff during orientation.