**The Salvation Army Midland Division**

**ELECTRONICS POLICY**

Help our campers “unplug” – please leave all electronics at home! **Our Electronics Policy is designed to:**

* Encourage your children to spend more time in the outdoors
* Promote socialization between campers
* Remove the divide between “the haves and the have-nots” in each cabin
* Reduce the stress associated with the damage to and theft of electronics
* Give your children a much-needed break from the world of technology
* Ensure that your children are not exposed to age-inappropriate material
* Ensure that your children cannot post their camp photos on the internet
* Ensure that your children are not focusing on situations revolving around their friends at home
* Prevent your children from hearing about situations and incidents concerning home and family before their parents have a chance to communicate with them

The use of electronics at camp is counter to the values we teach and uphold at Camp Mihaksa and interferes with an important peer aspect of the overnight camp experience.

We have been asked if they can use their electronic devices to tell the time or as an alarm. The problem with this is we have found that having devices holds too much temptation to check texts, emails, social media, etc. Campers are always allowed to ask camp staff what the time is, and Cabin counselors are responsible for waking up their campers. If a camper wants to wake up at a certain time, all he/she needs to do is ask the counselor.

**Cell Phones**

It is our policy that campers are NOT PERMITTED to have a cell phone at camp. If campers do travel to camp with cell phones, they will be asked to turn them in during registration. The cell phones will be kept in a locked box, and will be returned upon camper dismissal.

**Digital Cameras**

Campers are allowed to bring inexpensive (point and shoot type) cameras. However, please discuss proper handling of the camera and how pictures should be taken of other campers ONLY with their permission. If we find out that your child is taking pictures of people without permission, we will confiscate the camera, delete the picture in question, and return the camera to your child upon dismissal. Leave expensive cameras at home.

**Do not bring to camp:**

* Cell phones
* iPads, tablets, kindles, etc.
* Laptops or computers
* iPods or mp3 players
* Gaming devices, any kind of hand-held electronic games

If found, we will confiscate any of the above listed electronic devices and return them upon dismissal.

**One last word on Electronics**

We recommend that your child powers down, unplugs, and takes what we’re certain is a well-needed break from the world of electronics. Campers are welcome to bring other “interactive” things, like playing cards, checkers/chess, word games, etc. Please be respectful of the usage and content limitations we have in place. We are confident that “unplugging” will result in more time playing together, enhanced interaction between cabin-mates and more overall fun. When campers bring electronic devices to camp, not only does it remove them from the camp experience, but devices can sometimes get lost, broken, or stolen. **Camp Mihaska and The Salvation Army cannot take responsibility for their loss or damage, nor does our insurance policy cover their replacement**.