

## Parents: Colvig Silver Camps Policies, Your Campers, and the Internet

CSC has always taken the safety and well-being of our campers – your children – very seriously. Our aim is to earn and keep the trust that you place in us by choosing CSC as your summer partner in the development of your camper. Technology is changing how we communicate rapidly and though there are many exciting ways for youth to enjoy the internet and other technology, as advocates for children, we want to work with you to keep their experiences safe, healthy and positive. That is why we have taken the time to research and develop the following policies with the help of some youth development professionals concerned about online safety. Please review the policies on both sides of this form regarding the Internet, social networking sites, and exchanging contact information with counselors, and then discuss and sign them with your campers. It may be useful to make a copy of these guidelines before returning the signed copy to us.

As a partner interested in the maintenance of your child's continued well-being we recommend that you as parents be aware of and involved with your child's online activity. We have included here some resources to help you with this along with some safety tips to discuss with your child.

1. [www.wiredsafety.org](http://www.wiredsafety.org) - A set of Internet sites having to do with various online safety issues.
2. [www.campparents.org/healthyteens/cyber.php](http://www.campparents.org/healthyteens/cyber.php) - *Cyber Shadows- Protecting Teens from the Dark Side of the Online World*, Stephen Wallace, M.S. Ed
3. *MySpace Unraveled: A Parent's Guide to Teen Social Networking*, Larry Magid and Anne Collier, Peachpit Press, 2006. Extremely helpful, informative and comprehensive, easy-to-read guidebook for parents.
4. "What Parents Need to Know About MySpace—Your Guide to a Kid's World on the Internet," *U.S. News and World Report*, September 18, 2006. Great, easy-to-read, all-in-one-place article.

Safety Tips for Youth Online:

1. Avoid using your last name, phone number, address, name of your school, where you hang out, or sports teams you are on
2. Use the privacy features on your service.
3. Avoid meeting people you have met online in person and never do this without letting parents know and taking friends.
4. Be careful of what you post online. Don't forget, the internet is public space and anyone can see anything you post.
5. Remember that anyone can pose as anyone else online. Be skeptical of anyone's identity.

## Parents: Parent Permission For Camper-Staff Contact

At CSC our pledge is to put your children in the company of the most trustworthy and appropriate young adults we can hire – counselors who are best suited to the task of caring for campers. The effort we put into screening and selecting our staff is part of this pledge. We expect campers and counselors to develop close, trusting relationships with one another that are healthy and beneficial to camper and staff alike. We recognize that it is natural for campers to want to keep in touch with their favorite counselors after camp. However, at camp our staff work with your children in the context of a visible, well supervised environment that has many built in checks and balances. Because post-camp communication occurs outside the supervision of CSC we must let you know that we take no responsibility for these interactions. If a parent or legal guardian wishes their child to exchange contact information with a camp staff member, including the camper's mailing address, the parent or legal guardian must sign below expressly granting this permission.

As the parent or legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_,

I hereby grant permission for my child to exchange with their counselor(s) those forms of contact information that I have initialed below:

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone/cell phone number      \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address  
\_\_\_\_\_ Instant Message (IM) address      \_\_\_\_\_ Postal address  
\_\_\_\_\_ Social networking or blog site address

I understand that by granting this permission I as the parent or legal guardian take full responsibility for off-season interaction of any kind between my camper and a summer staff member, and that Colvig Silver Camps does not take responsibility for the actions of their staff in the off-season. I also understand that this permission must be renewed for each camp season.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature of parent or legal guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(print name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

## Campers: Camp Policy for Campers on the Internet

Please go over the following internet policies with your parents to ensure that your experience with the CSC community is as healthy, positive and fun after camp as it was during camp.

1. CSC views social networking sites and other Internet communication as a positive way for you to keep in touch with your friends and express yourself. As a camper at CSC you can exchange e-mails or IMs with other campers to be on your "friends" list in any way that you and your parents see fit.
2. Please note that when it comes to exchanging contact information with our staff (your counselors) **your parents must give us written permission for you to do that. This includes giving or getting a postal address, email or IM address, cell phone number, social networking profile, weblog, or any other contact information.** It's not that we don't think your relationships with your counselors are important. They are! It's just that, once they leave camp, we can't take responsibility for what happens between you and them. Only your parents can. On the reverse side of this form is a parent communication permission form which your parents must sign before a counselor can give you any contact information or receive any contact information from you. We recommend you look it over with your parents and together decide what you are comfortable with.
3. Regarding e-mails, Instant Messages (IMs) and comments you might make to other campers on social networking sites (like facebook.com or Myspace.com), we ask you:
  - a. to keep them positive and respectful of staff, campers, and CSC and its program;
  - b. not to use obscenities, vulgar or sexual language, or statements that are humiliating or demeaning;
  - c. not to say mean or threatening things to or about other campers or staff;
  - d. not to pose as another camper online and use a false screen name, blog or website to spread false information about anyone or say damaging, disparaging, or threatening things about anyone;
  - e. not to use a website, blog or e-mail to talk about behavior that is against camp policy like drugs, alcohol, bullying, or things that are sexual in nature;
  - f. not to upload a compromising picture of anyone from camp online.
4. Most internet communication is positive, and that's great! In the rare case where there might be any negative messages to other campers or staff, our policy is to call the parents of the campers who send those messages and to share the content of such messages with them. If the source of any inappropriate or threatening internet communication is not obvious, CSC will contact the authorities to track the source.
5. Regarding the use of the camp name, camp language, camp logos, and pictures, we ask that you contact CSC and receive written approval from camp before you
  - a. use the camp name, logos, program descriptions, or pictures;
  - b. add a link from your group page, profile, or other site to the CSC website;
  - c. post pictures of campers or staff members;
  - d. create a CSC group page with any of the above items.
6. Any camper who violates any of our policies regarding the internet or other communication may have to leave camp, may not be able to come back to camp, and may even have to answer to the police or other law enforcement authorities. Staff understands that this applies to them as well.
7. We want you to be safe on the internet. **If you receive a threatening e-mail, instant message, or message on your personal website that is inappropriate by any standard listed above, here is what you should do:**
  - a. Do not respond to the message;
  - b. Save the message and print a copy;
  - c. Show your parents the message and discuss your options with them;
  - d. If you suspect that the sender is someone related to camp, call us immediately.

We want camp to be as fun, safe, and wonderful as it can be. Our policies are designed so that however people from camp choose to communicate with one another, it happens in a way that is positive and feels safe for everyone.

In signing this form, I certify that I have read and understand the above policies and I agree to interact online in positive ways by abiding with the requests in items 3 and 5 above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(camper signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(print name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)