



Rowe Camp & Conference Center
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BEHAVIOR STANDARDS FOR ROWE JUNIOR HIGH CAMP

Rowe Camp, founded in 1924, is located in a small New England town in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The camp is affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association, which in 1984 adopted a revised set of principles, the first four of which affirm and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
Acceptance of one another and encouragement to
spiritual growth;
A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

We believe in these principles. Our goal is to share them with teenagers by emphasizing individual freedom of choice within a framework of responsibility to and respect for the community. Rowe Camp has a long tradition of respect for teenagers. We provide leadership, guidance, programming and role models to encourage the development of our principles. By creating a safe and trusting environment, we offer a rare and effective opportunity for young people to sharpen their awareness of the consequences of making their own choices. Rowe Camp is small enough for this purpose and encourages the development of maturity in teenagers. Our policies call for watchful awareness from the campers and the development of sensitivity toward others in the community. We trust that, within the parameters of these guidelines, each Rowe camper will have a safe and rewarding experience filled with that indefinable but lasting sense of positive, energetic, personal and community well-being that is called the Rowe Spirit.

SMOKING

For reasons of health, fire safety and air quality, campers (including CITs) are not allowed to smoke at camp. Although Rowe honors a tradition of respect for individual freedom and choice, we recognize that smoking is extremely unhealthy and that young teenagers are particularly susceptible to nicotine addiction and the health risks associated with smoking at an early age. Because of these realities, we cannot in good conscience permit Junior High campers to smoke. The camp will offer education and support about addictions and the health hazards involved with smoking. We will also provide support to any person who may be struggling with quitting or resisting the urge to smoke. Campers (including CITs) who smoke while at Rowe, will be asked to leave camp.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Alcohol, marijuana, and illegal drugs are not allowed in camp. One of the fundamental principles of Rowe and the UUA is that everyone is intrinsically worthy of respect and inclusion. The use of drugs or alcohol can have the effect of creating an in-group and an out-group. People possessing and/or using such substances will be asked in a humane and appropriate manner to leave the camp. We wish to discourage the behavior, not the person.

One exception to this rule is that the support staff people (those who are hired to work in camp all summer), provided they are of legal age, may use alcohol in their personal quarters which are separate from the camp grounds. Support staff people may not enter camp while under the influence of alcohol, bring alcohol into camp, or give it to campers or program staff people.

FIREARMS

Firearms and all other weapons are forbidden in camp.

STEALING

Living at Rowe Camp involves the sharing of a very small living space with a varied number of people, as many as ten in a cabin. Trust and a feeling of safety are essential for the creation of a community, and stealing may be the most destructive action one can take in a community environment. Except under extraordinary circumstances, individuals caught stealing will replace, at their own expense, what has been taken and will be sent home.

VIOLENCE/AGGRESSION/DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY

One of the fundamental principles in the philosophy of Rowe Camp and Unitarian Universalist thought, is respect for the dignity of every person. Violence, against people, their property, or the natural world is contrary to this principle. Physical violence and bullying of any kind (words or actions) will be grounds for being sent home. Counseling before departure will be made available, which may include campers' parents. Aggression can take many forms and can therefore be harder to set guidelines for. Camp directors and the Camp Manager have the responsibility of making decisions in regards to incidents of aggression. Campers will be held responsible for the repair or the cost of replacement or repair to any property which is damaged as a result of a raid or a willful act of destruction of property.

PRIVACY

Protection and preservation of the privacy of each camper and staff member is important in the creation of a safe community. Cabins are assigned for separate gender use, and no one is allowed in any cabin of the other gender from after chapel when campers are preparing for bed until breakfast. Any cabin group may vote itself off-limits to the other gender during the day or for part of the day. The counselor who does "wake-up" is the only exception to this rule. Bathrooms are assigned and restricted for use by gender.

NUDITY

We recognize that nudity has been used and maligned by economic, political and social forces in our society, especially advertising, and that it is often confused with sexuality. We restrict nudity in our camp setting out of respect for campers who may not choose to be exposed to the nudity of others, not because we believe the human body is bad per se. Public or co-ed nudity is not allowed in camp.

NO CURFEW NIGHTS

In our society today, young people's time is often controlled and programmed by the demands of school and extra-curricula activities. We believe that young people need opportunities to test their own limits, make their own decisions, and sharpen their awareness of the consequences of their decisions and choices.

During Jr. High Camp there are three no curfew nights. Campers are allowed to make their own choice as to when or if they will go to bed, whether or not to stay up all night, and how to use their time. Staff provide guidance in both making choices and exploring the outcome of those choices.

RAIDS

Raids are an intricate part of the camp culture. Raids are supposed to be fun and provide an outlet for some "naughtiness". When raids get out of hand they can become destructive to the camp community. Raids may not be done in such a way that they invade others' personal space, isolate or victimize campers or staff, cause physical harm or danger of harm to anyone or cause destruction of property. Raids which result in any of the above are a form of inter-personal violence that is prohibited in camp. It is a challenge to campers' creativity to balance the needs of personal expression with the needs of the community. That is an important part of what Rowe Camp offers to campers -- an opportunity to explore the edge where self-expression and community meet. The Spirit of Rowe is best embodied by those who learn to live on this edge. Rowe Camp is dedicated to helping campers discover this edge in themselves.

SEXUALITY

Our camp is a place where thoughts and feelings, including sexual ones, are respected and valued as a healthy part of our human experience. Our primary concern in Junior High Camp is to create an environment which, while acknowledging the sexual awakening of some, is safe and comfortable for those campers who are not prepared for or do not wish to deal with a sexually charged atmosphere.

Members of our community are not allowed to engage in making out or overt sexual behavior in any place deemed public, for we believe that this is an affront to the privacy of those who do not wish to see such activities. It is our belief that few junior high-aged people possess the emotional and physical maturity to deal responsibly with the act of sexual intercourse or any sexually explicit behavior. For this reason, and for reasons of protection of the community atmosphere, we do not allow sexual intercourse or any other equally physical sexual acts in Junior High Camp. Individuals caught in the act or reliably known to have engaged in such behavior will have an opportunity to receive counseling and may be asked to return home, depending on the circumstances.

Campers will be required to attend a workshop that will provide education about sexually transmitted diseases, as well as birth control. This workshop will be led by an experienced professional. Parents are requested to let us know if they do not want their son or daughter to participate in this workshop.

It continues to be our policy to prohibit romantic relationships between staff and campers. Persons in positions of responsibility are often perceived as having more power and glamour than others in camp, and the extra attention given to a camper in a romantic relationship can unfairly distort the camper's experience of camp. From the point of view of the staff person, romantic attention given to one camper diminishes time and attention given to others. Any staff member caught in the act or reliably known to have engaged in such behavior will be asked to leave immediately and may not return to serve on staff at any youth camp or work with youth in any capacity at Rowe Camp and Conference Center.

CONCLUSIONS

This document includes only those rules and behavior standards that must be communicated before campers arrive. If these rules are unacceptable to the prospective campers or to their parents, all concerned need to know this before camp begins. There are naturally a number of other, more routine rules about camp life. Some are not negotiable, such as safety on the roads and at the beaches and respect for the camp and town property. Others, such as curfew time and what happens when a camper misses his or her turn at KP, can be decided upon by the staff or the community at the beginning of each session.

Campers and parents are advised on the Camper Contract Form that violations of any of our policies, standards and rules could result in the camper being sent home. It is our intention to handle each case according to the particular situation and individual concerned, but clear violations of specific rules will not be tolerated. Every junior and senior high camper and a parent must sign a contract before coming to camp that makes it crystal clear that this is understood and that the rules, policies and standards are also understood.

If a violation of the behavior standards occurs and a camper is to be sent home, it is required for the parents or guardians to pick up the camper either same day or within 24 hours. There will be no refund of camp fees.

Please do not mistake this document to be a profile of what camp is like at Rowe. Rowe is life-long friendships established firmly, the unfolding of one's own identity in clear and appreciable ways, the testing of one's own capacities, an awareness of our connection with and to the Earth, and a real knowledge of what community means. It is fun, it is unique, it is the Rowe Camp experience and it is the Rowe Spirit. We think you will love it and that you will love yourself for coming here.

Dear Parents and Campers,

Thank you for reading the above information, specifically the camp policies and behavior standards, and signing your name to support the intentions which the words represent. Your signatures indicate that you are willing to abide by the policies as they are described here.

If you have questions or would like to discuss any of the policies, please contact our office and we will put you in touch with the directors.