

# Student Behavior Policy

Nevada Outdoor School has adopted a discipline policy that emphasizes physical and emotional safety for all program participants, positive discipline, clear expectations, and appropriate consequences. The policy is implemented through guidelines, team contracts, rules, positive reinforcement, a four-step warning system, and consequences. The word staff in this policy refers to both staff and national service members.

## Guidelines

Students should be introduced to the three Respects.

Respect for others

Respect for place

Respect for self

In addition to the general guidelines, which can be used by all participants to determine appropriate behavior in nearly all situations, below are some ideas for situation specific rules which may be used.

## Team Contracts

Whenever possible and particularly for multiday programs, students should be involved in the process of establishing behavior guidelines for their group. One effective way to do this is a team contract. Students are more likely to understand and commit to following rules which they have had a hand in creating.

## General Trail Rules

1. Stay on the trails and between the leader and tail, unless instructed by the leader.
2. Remain reasonably quiet throughout field study. Be alert to the presence of wildlife and respectful of the rights of others to learn and be listened to.
3. Do not pick plants or touch animals unless instructed by the leader.
4. Come prepared for every field study with the appropriate footwear and clothing. (long pants and closed toe shoes mandatory for outdoor activities) and water.

## Overall Health and Safety Rules

1. Remain with adult supervision at all times.
2. Walk instead of run, unless permitted to do so as part of an organized activity.
3. Tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, and weapons of any sort (including knives) are prohibited by the Nevada Outdoor School.
4. Students may not bring electronic devices of any sort, except watches, and flashlights. Cameras okay. Please also tell students about loss/damage likelihood.
5. Swearing or foul language will be prohibited.
6. Insubordination will not be tolerated by the staff at any time.
7. No play fighting and/or physical horseplay.
8. Students are expected to participate in activities at all times.

**Other rules will be established and communicated to participants for particular activities as required.**

## Positive Reinforcement

Whenever possible, Nevada Outdoor School staff will use positive reinforcement of good behaviors as a deterrent to undesirable student behavior. Student actions which are annoying, but not necessarily disruptive or dangerous should be ignored whenever possible to avoid giving attention for negative acts.

## **Warning System**

If a student violates a rule or acts in a way inconsistent with the guidelines, he/she may receive a warning. These warnings may be given by any Nevada Outdoor School staff. All formal warnings will be recorded on the Discipline Log, which is maintained by the program director. Though warnings may be given informally and not recorded, the practice of verbally warning a number of times without follow-through is strongly discouraged. There may be consequences associated with warnings, but the consequence must be logically related to the violation. This may include a time-out, apology to other participant(s) affected or loss of privilege.

### ***Behaviors that may result in being sent home:***

1. Violent acts against staff or students.
2. Theft or Vandalism.
3. Possession of alcohol, tobacco products, narcotics, or dangerous drugs.
4. Possession of a weapon.
5. Overt sexual behaviors toward students or staff.
6. Running away from supervision.

## ***Consequences***

All formal warnings will result in a consequence as follows:

**First warning:** The student acknowledges the error and the warning is recorded.

**Second warning:** The student talks with the program director and/or activity leader to acknowledge the error and commit to better behavior. A time out or loss of privilege at this time may be appropriate.

**Third warning:** The student meets with the program director and their activity leader to acknowledge the error and develop a specific plan for continued appropriate behavior. A behavior contract may be completed by the student at this time, if the contract will be useful in managing behavior, and will include specific positive behaviors and/or appropriate responses to challenging situations. The parent or guardian is usually called at this time, in order to gain advice from the parent or guardian on managing behavior, and to warn them that the student may be sent home (with pickup by the parent or guardian required) if the behavior problem or pattern continues.

**Fourth warning:** The student usually is sent home. The decision to send a student home will be made by the program director working closely with the activity leader. Whether a student is sent home at this time depends upon the nature of the behavior that resulted in the warnings, the attitude of the student, the student's home situation, and the time until the end of the program. The student may be isolated from other students by staying with a person from the Nevada Outdoor School staff for the remainder of the program.

Any student may be given multiple warnings at one time for intentionally unsafe behavior. This includes but is not limited to: fights which result in, or are clearly intended to result in, injury to other students; intentional scaring of other students on a hike; and intentional misuse of prescription or over-the-counter medications.

Consequences will always be either related to the specific behavior or directed toward improving behavior. If the student, working with the program director and/or activity leader, agrees to a consequence intended to correct the physical or emotional impact of a violation of guidelines or rules, the consequence must be logically related and must be safe.

Though warnings will never be removed, the consequence at any level or future levels may be mitigated by the nature of the violation and the student's attitude.

Food, candy, or gum confiscated from students will not be returned due to the difficulty of storing these items. Other items confiscated will be returned to the student at the appropriate place and time once the event is over.