

Youth Program Behavior Policy

It is the goal of the YMCA to provide a healthy, safe, and secure environment for all program participants. The YMCA promotes the character development values of **caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility**. Children who attend YMCA programs are expected to follow the behavior guidelines and to interact appropriately with staff and other program participants.

The following behaviors are not acceptable in YMCA programs:

- Endangering the health and safety of participants and /or staff members
- Stealing or damaging YMCA, facility or personal property
- Engaging in any violent behavior including but not limited to hitting, pushing, biting, etc.
- Leaving the program site or property without permission
- Continuing to disrupt the program
- Refusing to follow the behavior guidelines or program rules
- Use of profanity
- Acting in a lewd manner

When a participant does not follow the YMCA behavior policy the following action will be taken:

1. Staff will redirect the participant to a more appropriate behavior.
2. The participant will be reminded of the behavior guidelines and program rules through a discussion with staff. The staff will document the incident(s) in writing in the behavior log book on site. This will include what the behavior issue is and the corrective action taken.
3. If behavior requires a consequence beyond redirection, a parent/guardian will be notified that day of the situation by staff.
4. If the inappropriate behavior continues, a conference will be scheduled with the parent/guardian so that together they can determine the appropriate action to take.
5. Staff will schedule a progress check or a follow-up conference.
6. If the issue still persists staff will schedule a conference that includes the parent, participant, Administrative Staff and Director. The Staff will have all documentation and the notes from any previous conferences for review. If subsequent conferences have to be scheduled, the Branch Director may also be present.
7. Should a participant exhibit behavior deemed unsafe to themselves, other participants or the Staff by the Director and/or Administrative Staff, or if the behavior becomes so that we are not able to be fully focused on the remaining participants and the duties of running a safe program, the above steps can be skipped, the YMCA of Kingston & Ulster Co. will require a parent/guardian to arrange immediate pick-up of the child from the premises. Should no attempt by a parent/guardian be made to assist in the pick-up of a participant, one phone call to each listed contact on child's application will be made if we are unable to reach the parent/guardian the YMCA of Kingston & Ulster Co. reserves the right to arrange alternate transportation such as police or emergency personnel at no cost or fault to the YMCA of Kingston & Ulster Co.
8. Should a reasonable attempt be made but a parent/guardian is unable to pick-up the camper, transport by taxi will be arranged by the YMCA of Kingston & Ulster Co., at no cost to the YMCA of Kingston & Ulster Co., to a pre-determined location agreed upon by YMCA Staff and parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian prefers a staff member to accompany the child, this will also be at no cost to the YMCA of Kingston & Ulster County.
9. If an individualized plan has been created under the agreement of the parent/guardian and Director, then this policy will be applied. If the behavior it was desired to decrease is continuing, the program Staff and/or Director have the right to implement other methods to decrease and/or eliminate the behavior. The parent/guardian will be notified.
10. Immediate expulsion will occur if a participant is in possession of and/or using tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, firecrackers, firearms or other weapons, or explosives.
11. If a problem persists and a camper continues to disrupt the program, the YMCA reserves the right to suspend the child from participation in the program for a specified period of time. Permanent termination from the program will be considered in extreme situations.

Parent/Guardian Signature Required: I have reviewed with my child the Behavior Management Procedures. I understand and agree to all of the terms presented in this document.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Printed Name: _____ **Relationship:** _____

This form must be signed on both sides and returned to the YMCA office before registration can be completed.