

### Prohibited items at Ohio 4-H camps

Ohio 4-H places priority on taking necessary and reasonable actions to safeguard the overall safety and well-being of all program participants.

Prohibited items that are never allowed at any Ohio 4-H program where minor participants are present include alcohol, tobacco products in any form, illegal drugs, pornography, discriminatory iconography and/or messaging, and weapons not included in an approved 4-H shooting sports program.

Additionally, youth participants (campers and counselors) may not possess cell phones\* during 4-H camp. Camp Program Directors will determine consequences for possessing a cell phone. The State 4-H Office recommends a zero tolerance approach: If an individual is found with a prohibited item, they will be sent home at the family's expense. \* Camp Program Directors also have discretion for prohibiting other internet-enabled devices at their 4-H camps. Please refer to the separate cell phone/electronics policy.

### Guidelines for Searching the Belongings of Participants

If there is reasonable suspicion that a violation of the program's prohibited items policies has occurred or other rules have been broken, a search may be conducted. The following steps will be taken:

- Searches will be conducted by at least two trusted individuals, in the presence of the participant whose belongings are being searched, and preferably in a private setting, unless there is imminent danger or circumstances that require immediate action.
- Searches may include a participant's luggage, bags, backpacks, knapsack, trunk, locker, bedding, dresser drawers, and personal effects including toiletries.
- When timing and circumstances allow, the participant's parent or guardian will be notified prior to conducting the search. In situations when this is not possible, either due to timing, lack of communications coverage, or lack of response, notification will be made as soon as possible.
- If an illegal item is discovered (e.g., alcohol), it will be confiscated and retained in a secure place, and the appropriate authorities will be contacted for further action.
- If a prohibited item is discovered, it is confiscated and retained in a secure place. Prohibited items may be returned to the parent/guardian when they arrive to pick-up their participant.

I have read and understand the above information regarding prohibited items and guidelines for searches.

Print Name of Camper: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Camper: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the above information regarding prohibited items and guidelines for searches.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Parent)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)