

# Phones & Smartwatches



## **Skyline has a no-phones policy for campers**

There are several reasons for Skyline's unplugged approach to camp.

- Risk of loss or damage is high
- Maintaining focus on camp program and other people present at camp
- A mental break from persistent pressures of social media
- Homesickness can be exacerbated by holding onto remote connections while at camp

## **What about photos?**

Skyline uploads hundreds of photos each day which are accessible freely for viewing and downloading; there's no shortage of visual memories.

*Phones that are brought to camp will be turned in to the office, switched off, and locked away until the end of the camp session. Skyline is not responsible for loss or damage to phones that are not turned in.*

## **Skyline allows smartwatches, with some expectations and understandings**

We recognize the following positive aspects of smartwatches for campers:

- A smartwatch can reduce anxiety for some, and make space for self-advocacy and problem solving.
- Activity-tracking for those for whom it is important

On the other hand

- Like phones, they are expensive objects that can be easily damaged in a camp environment—Skyline is not responsible for such damage.
- The flip side of being able to contact home when a problem arises is that it discourages campers from seeking help and problem-solving with the camp staff who are present precisely to help them. *For example: if they have left something at home—we are likely able to fulfill that need; seeking help from those present to help is an important life skill.*

## **What about emergencies?**

If there is an emergency at camp, we will respond in the moment and communicate with you as soon as possible.

If there is an emergency at home, we'd prefer you call us and we can work to communicate with your camper, and with you, in a setting where there is privacy and support from staff.

## **Our expectations if your camper has a smartwatch**

- It remains unpaired to a phone (no phones)
- The camper lets us know if/when they would like to communicate with the watch
- The parents/guardians let us know when they plan to communicate using the watch
- If a camper reaches out to home, we hope that you will let us know, in case there are concrete needs we can address, or to respond to illness/homesickness with the best course of action.

If there are any questions about items not addressed on this page, please reach out to contact us.

