

Discipline Policy

Great Basin 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, rules, a warning system, and consequences. Great Basin Outdoor School creates an atmosphere focused on safety, learning and growth. In our Universal Respect System, participants are respectful of:

- 1. Our Environment** – of all the plants and animals within it.
- 2. One Another** – our classmates, cabin leaders, naturalists, and teachers. Great Basin has a “Zero Tolerance” policy for teasing.
- 3. Ourselves** – in the behavior we exhibit and how we monitor our well-being.

In addition to these guidelines, behavior and safety rules have been established for specific situations and activities. GBOS staff will inform students of the rules for each activity.

Rules

In addition to the general guidelines, which can be used by all participants to determine appropriate behavior in nearly all situations, there are rules that apply to specific situations and activities, shown below. It will be the responsibility of the naturalist, cabin leader, teacher, or program director leading an activity to inform students of the rules for that activity; however, it will be the responsibility of the student to remember the rules for the next similar situation, and to ask for clarification if needed.

Cabin Rules

1. Do not enter other cabins, even if invited.
2. No horseplay! This includes jumping off beds, moving beds, wrestling and pillow fights.
3. No food, candy or gum in the cabin. Water is OK.
4. Keep noise moderate. Respect quiet hours from lights out to wake up. Use appropriate language.

The cabin members may establish other rules or guidelines to create positive experiences for all.

Trail Rules

1. Stay on the trails and between the leader and tail, unless instructed by the naturalist.
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 naturalist.
4. Come prepared for every field study with the appropriate footwear, clothing, and water.

Night Hike Rules

1. Do not intentionally scare other students.
2. Do not use your flashlight except in an emergency situation or if asked to by the night hike leader.

Dining Hall Rules

1. Leave your table to clean up, do the Whazzit and library questions only with a “hopper” tag.
2. Use a moderate voice and keep conversations to your own table.
3. Use appropriate meal behavior, such as saying please and thank you, asking for items to be passed, and respecting people’s varying eating habits and preferences.

Overall Health and Safety Rules

1. Be with an adult (naturalist, cabin leader, teacher or program director) 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.
4. Students may not bring electronic devices of any sort, except watches, alarm clocks and flashlights.

Other rules may be established for particular activities at Great Basin Outdoor School.

Warnings

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 naturalists, cabin leaders, teachers, and the program director. Formal warnings will be recorded in 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 for all staff. Informal warnings may carry a consequence such as acknowledgment of the error, time out, or loss of privilege, but the consequence must be logically related to the violation.

Consequences

As a part of the Universal Respect System, GBOS uses a multi-step discipline procedure to encourage students to adopt appropriate behavior in all situations. Consequences for breaking rules or guidelines will be relayed to students upon arrival.

- On the first step, a student's Universal Respect bead will be taken; they can earn this back from their naturalist.
- On the second step, the student's parent will be called and the bead must be earned back from the Program Director, potentially after a behavior modification contract is filled out and a meeting with the classroom teacher, and the student loses a privilege or is assigned a time out.
- On the third step, the student is usually sent home (with pickup by the parent or guardian required). The decision to send a student home will be made by the program director working closely with the classroom teacher. 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 their teacher 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 night 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 teacher, 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.

Food, candy, or gum confiscated from students may not be returned due to the difficulty of storing these items. Other items confiscated will be returned to the student by the classroom teacher after return to school, except illegal items.

GBOS does not specify in any way whether behavior during the program may result in consequences after return to the attending school.