

ELECTRONICS AT CAMP

OSRUI is a break from technology!

As we prepare to welcome your children to OSRUI, we want to provide some guidance regarding our policy on electronics at camp.

In these days of instant communication and constant technology, we see camp as a great opportunity to **power down and take what we're certain is a well-needed break from the world of electronics.** The only electronics allowed at OSRUI are:

- **Screen-less music players** (e.g. iPod shuffles and iPod Nanos that do not have video capability are both allowed, as are other similar MP3 players or CD players). Our goal is to have devices that only have music on them, without games or internet access. This way, campers aren't missing out on programming and time with the OSRUI community while playing on their devices. **If there is a small screen on the music player to see the song information without any additional functionality, that is ok.** There is no need to purchase expensive music players. If you do want to get a cheap option, we recommend the Sandisk Clip Jam Player (on Amazon).

Please make sure the music your child has downloaded is appropriate for a camp setting: e.g., no references to drugs, alcohol or sex, and no swear words. Campers must bring headphones as to not disturb others while listening to music.

- **Digital or disposable cameras** Campers who would like to take photos at camp may bring an inexpensive digital camera, instant camera or disposable cameras. Make sure you pack enough memory cards, and batteries or chargers (for campers in cabins). If there is a small screen on the camera to view photos that is ok. Please discuss proper handling of the camera and how **pictures should be taken of other campers and staff only with their permission.**
- **NEW FOR 2019: e-readers** – In response to feedback from parents, we are allowing campers to bring ereaders to camp as long as their only functionality is to read books and they do not have any cellular data access. If your device has the ability to play games or watch videos, it is not allowed at camp.

All other music players, tablets, portable game devices, and video players should remain at home. We hope your camper will bring a deck of cards, a favorite board game, a baseball glove, and other non-electronic games to be enjoyed with friends!

Cell Phones

We believe being at camp is an opportunity for your child to experience a world beyond home without being constantly connected through a cell phone. Camp is a place for children to make new friends, take responsibility for themselves and their bunkmates, problem solve and mature a bit. This is harder to achieve when parents are only a phone call or text away. **We ask for your help with this policy.** Please do not send your child(ren) to camp with a phone, even with the SIM card removed. Please make sure you put away your child's cell phone before he or she leaves for camp. All cell phones brought to camp will be collected, kept in the camp's safe, and returned to campers on closing day.

If your camper is traveling by air and bringing a cell phone for the trip, it will be put in the camp's safe with any other valuables (cash for their trip, a copy of the return itinerary, etc.) and returned on closing day.

Camp is one of the few places throughout the year where kids can truly unplug, and we have made this decision to both honor and recognize this space as a result of direct parent feedback. We request parents fully support our mission to keep these electronics out of camp to ensure OSRUI remains a wholesome, outdoorsy and safe place for all kids.

**These policies are designed to create a welcoming and inclusive community at OSRUI.
Thank you for your understanding and your cooperation.**