

- Franklin County 4H Camp Cell Phone Guidelines -

4H Camp participants **are prohibited** from bringing cell phones or other electronic communication devices to 4H Camp.

Bringing and using these devices is very disruptive to the camping experience in several ways.

- ✿ For protection of **all** camp participants, due to the prevalence of social media and the ability for most cell phones and other electronic devices to be used as cameras, these devices are not allowed at camp. This is an attempt to prevent unauthorized use or inappropriate photos being taken and/to uploaded to the internet.
- ✿ Campers who experience mild homesickness and have access to a cell phone will call home. Once that connection is made, the parents usually end up coming to camp to take their child home. The same camper without access to the phone will be over their homesickness in 24 – 36 hours and have a wonderful camping experience.
- ✿ Other campers who do not have access to cell phones, but see others using them often feel as if they are being treated unfairly even though they are the ones who choose to follow rules. Seeing this can also incite homesickness where it otherwise might not occur.
- ✿ 4H Camp is designed to be a place for youth to have a safe and fun learning experience away from home and their parents. Having direct contact with parents/family/friends throughout the week interferes with and even negates the developmental benefits that the camping experience is designed to provide.

The mailing address at camp is 775 Hermitage Road Wirtz, VA 24184. Family and friends are strongly encouraged to send letters, notes, and care packages to camp. You may even consider mailing packages on Thursday or Friday before camp so that your child will have a package waiting for them the first day of camp when they arrive. ***We suggest you send your child to camp with self-addressed, stamped envelopes for their use.***

In the event of an emergency involving your child at camp, you will be contacted immediately. This is why it is important to list all the ways we can contact you on the health form and to list at least one emergency contact that we can call if we can't reach you immediately. Likewise, if there is an emergency at home and you need to get in touch with your child, you can call the 4H Center main number at any time to reach someone and get a message to your child.

Those who bring unauthorized cell phones to camp **will** have them confiscated and may be subject to disciplinary actions. Parents can pick up those cell phones when they pick up their campers on Friday, or they can come to the Extension Office the following week.

If you have any questions or concerns about this policy, please contact your 4H Agent, Amber Wilson, at the Franklin County Extension office at (540) 483-5161 or if you are trying to reach me during the week of camp, you can call me at (540) 484-3054.

Please help us enforce this policy for the benefit of everyone and to ensure a fun, safe, and happy week at 4H Camp! We appreciate your co-operation.