



Jayhawk Area Council National Youth Leadership Training

At Falley Scout Reservation

NYLT Cell Phone Policy

The National Youth Leadership Training program is designed to fully immerse Scouts in an environment for testing and developing leadership skills that will prepare them for life. Scouts will get the most benefit from NYLT if they fully participate in the course. Because of this, NYLT encourages Scouts to NOT bring cell phones or other electronics. If a Scout chooses to bring a cell phone to camp, they assume all liability of the device's care and may only use the device appropriately and according to the signed permission form at the end of this document.

Our Reasoning and Considerations

NYLT Courses and Summer Camps have faced the following challenges across Scouting America due to cell phones and other electronic devices:

- Conflicts between campers
- Campers' instinct to call parents when they need advice instead of turning to their peers, counselors, or adult leaders
- Lost/stolen/damaged devices
- Focusing on friends at home rather than friends at camp
- Inappropriate and frequent use
- Distraction and disconnection from camp activities, staff, and fellow campers
- Devalues the instructional, education, social, and personal growth and confidence benefits of camp

Phones are expensive devices, and despite manufacturers saying the devices are waterproof, the adult camp leadership has seen every type of phone damaged due to Kansas rainstorms.

In addition to the potential for water damage, there will be no electricity available to charge the devices.

Should Scouts or Parents/Guardians need to contact each other during the week, the Scoutmasters will have their cell phones. Contact information for the Scoutmasters can be found in the Parent Letter and will also be provided at check-in.

List of Devices

Devices not allowed at camp include, but are not limited to: **cell phones, video games, headphones / ear buds / air pods, smart watches, personal radios, e-readers, and tablets.**

The only electronic devices fully allowed at NYLT are a **basic digital alarm clock, (non-smart) watch, and a personal GPS Unit.**

(continued)



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Phone Misuse

If a Scout at NYLT is found using a phone without permission, at an inappropriate time, or in an inappropriate manner, the following disciplinary actions will be carried out.

- If the Scout does not have phone access permissions, they will be asked to inform a parent/guardian that their device is being given to an NYLT Adult and will be returned at the conclusion of the course.
- If the Scout has been given permission to use a phone, they will receive one warning to use their phone appropriately. Subsequent issues will result in the Scout contacting a parent/guardian and the phone's confiscation by an adult. The phone will be returned at the conclusion of the course.
- Regardless of a Scout's permission to use a phone, Safeguarding Youth Policy violations involving a phone will result in the immediate confiscation of the phone followed by conversations with the Scout Executive and law enforcement as necessary.

Limited Phone Use Options

1. No Phone or Electronic Device

My Scout will not be bringing a cell phone or electronic device to NYLT.

2. Supervised Device Time

Should you feel the need to send a cell phone with your Scout to camp, you can provide the phone to the NYLT Adult Leadership who will allow limited access to the phone during appropriate times. These times can include in the evening before bed and in the morning before instruction time. Phone use will be limited to 15 minutes per day and is intended solely for short communication.

3. Authorized Cell Phone Use

This option means your Scout will be responsible for their phone at all times. You should discuss with your Scout what appropriate phone use looks like. Any use of a phone that violates the Cell Phone Use Policy will result in the phone being confiscated. A call or text message will be sent to the parents/guardians of the Scout prior to the phone's confiscation. A parent/guardian must also have a conversation with the NYLT Scoutmasters before this option will be approved.

----- *Cut or tear along this line* -----

Cell Phone Permission Form for Unique Circumstances

After reviewing the NYLT Cell Phone Policy, complete this form and bring it with you to NYLT.

- My Scout will NOT be bringing a phone or electronic device.
- I wish for my Scout to give their phone to the NYLT Adults to use for limited communication during "Supervised Device Time" as described in the NYLT Cell Phone Policy.
- I wish for my Scout to have their phone with them at all times. I have discussed with them what appropriate phone use looks like. I have also discussed this with the 3 primary NYLT Adult Leaders.

Please give reasoning if you checked the second or third box above: _____

Scout's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____