

# **Family Foundations Institute**

## **Family Camp Mission, Core Values and Code of Conduct**

### **Family Camp Mission and Core Values**

At Family Camp we strive to create an atmosphere of outdoor rest and recreation for Catholic families, who join together for a shared vacation time. Simple accommodation and well-balanced meals are provided so families can spend their time being with each other.

Camp is a place where children can play with physical and moral safety, and parents can learn from each other in their great project of raising their children and growing continually closer to God.

Daily Mass, opportunity for Confession, and rosary around the campfire, facilitate this mission, and family members grow closer to each other through restful time spent together and shared outdoor experiences with a respect for other parent's freedom and with a positive outlook on the world.

Parents are the primary educators of their children. Family Camp seeks to encourage and foster this attitude. **You are an essential part of a successful camp! Thank you for your collaboration and your cooperation!**

### **Family Camp Code of Conduct**

**Family Foundations Institute 7 subscribing principles.** As an initiative of Family Foundations Institute (FFI), Family Camp adheres to FFI's 7 Subscribing Principles, which are:

1. Complete adherence to the teachings of the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church and the Pope.
2. Acceptance of the right and duty of parents to be the primary educators of their children.
3. This formational enterprise is a lay endeavour - not clerical.
4. Instruction will not criticize clergy. Instruction will support clear teaching of the Roman Catholic Church in a positive manner.
5. Parents and their children take part in this endeavour. Parents participate either as instructors or as participants in a parent formation class thereby demonstrating that they have an active and living faith.
6. The framework of the teaching enterprise is a community effort. As such, a fraternal bond and social interaction between families is to be fostered.
7. There is a joyful duty of apostolate for individuals and the group to follow the Holy Father's call to evangelize

**Participation and Involvement:** As all families present at Family Camp are on a vacation, all family members are expected to cooperate and collaborate in making Family Camp a success. There is an atmosphere of friendship and charity between all families present. Activities are optional, but families are encouraged as much as possible to be involved. Everyone can thereby be enriched by each other. Parents are responsible for their children at all times.

**Respect for Freedom:** With a respect for other parent's freedom, and with a positive outlook on the world, parent discussions take place in a respectful manner. There is tremendous opportunity for families to learn from and encourage one another, as well as develop deep friendships and foster mentorship. Per the Catechism of the Catholic Church, parents are the primary educators of their children and Family Camp seeks to encourage and foster this attitude.

**Mass and other Traditions of Piety:** We are fortunate to have Mass celebrated at the camp daily, as well as an opportunity for Confession and the daily Rosary. These activities are optional, but should you choose to attend we ask for everyone's cooperation to make Mass as reverent as possible, even though the setting may make it a bit more challenging. (Reverent does NOT mean no children crying or "toddler talking"!!). There is no chapel at the camp, so a temporary chapel is set up daily in the rec hall. All are encouraged to remain for 5 minutes after Mass in silence to pray and thank God. Conversations should be taken outside after Mass to allow others to have silence.

We try to arrange for a priest to be available each day for confessions and spiritual direction. Schedule of the priest will be made available upon your family's arrival. You may also be able to approach the priest for another suitable time.

**Technology:** We try to make Family Camp a media / digital technology-free environment. Ipods, DVD players, electronic games, etc. are not encouraged at camp in order to foster an atmosphere of being "unplugged" from technology and "plugged in" to God and family. If you do bring cell phones and technology with you (and we certainly know that many people have work or family commitments that require them to stay reachable), we ask that any accessing of the internet be done as much as possible in cabins rather than in public areas. Please note, there is no Wi-Fi or internet access at either campsite. If necessary, there is a public library and nearby Tim Hortons within 20 min driving distance of both campsites.

**Drug and Alcohol Policy:** Some families may wish to provide their own wine or beer for meal time. This is acceptable as long as age limits and moderation are followed. The possession and/or use of illicit/non-prescription drugs is prohibited at the campsite per FFI's rental agreement. The managers of the campsite reserve the right to take any necessary action, even to the point of dismissing individuals from the camp property, should the Drug and Alcohol policy not be adhered to.

**Dress Code:** Please use modest swim wear at the pool (i.e. no bikinis) and during the heat of the summer avoid tube tops, belly shirts, low cut tanks, etc. Please use your good judgment and discretion. This is a family camp involving men and women of all ages. Shirts should be worn at mealtimes and other moments of refinement.

Please remember that extra care should be taken to dress appropriately and neatly for daily Mass to give the right respect to the Mass. (We are happy to have children just come in their camp clothes; Adults can perhaps wear collared shirts / pants / capri pants instead of shorts, etc.)

**Camp Safety and Security:** Camp Safety rules will be reviewed upon your arrival at your Family Camp campsite. The drinking water is safe everywhere in the camp. There is a first aid kit in a well marked spot at both Family Camp campsites. Both campsites have a pool and Bothwell campsite has nearby water for canoeing. Some life jackets and pool toys are available for use however parents of smaller small children (< 30 lbs) should bring life jackets for them if they are required. There is no lifeguard, so all children must be supervised by a parent. For the safety of all, the pool area is locked and off limits during mealtimes, parent discussion, Mass and night time.

Throughout the entirety of the camp, **parents are entirely responsible for their children at all times.**