

SOCIAL CRUELTY (BULLYING)

What Is It?

- Social Cruelty is defined as any behavior where a person aggressively attacks another person with words or actions directed to injure the victim's wellbeing, to damage his or her standing, or to simply assert the aggressor's dominance.

What Does It Look Like?

- Teasing
- Exclusion
- Bullying
- Rumoring
- Ganging up

What Are Researched Definitions?

- There is a pattern of behavior established.
- The bullying behavior has a negative impact emotionally, spiritually, or physically on the target/victim.
- An imbalance of power is established, which can take the form of gender, popularity, size, weight, economic situation, number of people involved, or intimidating looks.
- The bullying behavior is purposeful.

Is Teasing Ever Acceptable and Not Considered Bullying?

- Teasing Is Acceptable When:
 - Friends and everyone involved are getting an equal share of the teasing. (Kids are not ganging up on one person.)
 - People are not making fun of someone's disabilities, ethnicity, faith, or other characteristics that are out of the person's control.
 - The teasing is not repeated over and over again.
 - It is not meant to harm you in any way, and if you ask the person to stop, they would.
 - Someone you have a close relationship with does the teasing.

Social Cruelty (Bullying) Cannot Take Place if Together We Refuse to Allow It to Happen!

- Tell Your your child:
 - "Please let staff know if they can help with any problems, especially bullying."
 - "The Camp will not tolerate any cruelty of campers to anyone."
 - "The camp takes Social Cruelty (Bullying) very seriously and anyone who bullies another will not remain at camp. "
 - "The staff can only deal with cruelty if they know about it. You have to speak up!"
 - "If you see something, say something."

Our camp has a published anti-bullying policy. Parents, campers, staff, and volunteers are aware of it. Together we will prevent cruelty of any camper. Our camp is no place for a bully. A bully sent home will stay home: No return to camp this summer and no refund of tuition.