

## *Camp Sertoma Behavior Contract*

*Campers should not be afraid to approach their cabin counselor or Camp Director at any time -- asking to talk about things that are bothering them.* If campers don't report problems, it is possible that Camp Sertoma counselors will remain unaware of the issues, and therefore the support and assistance they are prepared to offer may be delayed. We care very deeply about your camper's emotional and physical safety. Please encourage them to report problems as soon as possible. It's only when we don't know about a problem that we can't solve it.

### CAMPER CONTRACT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, promise that I will do my best to keep Camp Sertoma a fun, safe and caring place for everyone. This means that I will:

1. Treat everyone with kindness and respect.
2. Use appropriate language and discussions
3. Resolve disagreements with other campers peacefully.
4. Never tease, hurt, name-call or bully another camper.
5. Refuse to join in if I see someone else being bullied.
6. Not exclude others from joining activities
7. Ask for help from an adult if I am bullied or see someone else is being bullied.

Serious problems concerning camper behavior at Camp Sertoma are rare. Most inappropriate behavior is directly related to typical reactions of campers to a new environment. This is a normal byproduct of children's transitions as they grow, gain independence, and establish personal identities that will carry them through life. We anticipate these behaviors and train our counselors to address them in a positive manner. Believe it or not, we enjoy this aspect of child development, and our role in learning more about children, while helping them through the issues that can lead to problems surfacing. Occasionally, there are cases in which campers are unresponsive to the techniques we use to address behavioral concerns. A camper who continues to struggle, after numerous attempts to address concerns, can end up having a very negative impact on other campers' experience of Camp Sertoma. While we do our best to support all campers' individual needs, there are occasions where doing so is detrimental to the happiness of the larger community of campers. In the event this is the case, a camper may be sent home before the end of their session. This is a critical understanding and agreement.

Parents, please take a few minutes to discuss your campers' behavior and its relation to the success and positive nature of our camp community. We certainly do not anticipate having to dismiss any camper, however they need to be aware of appropriate behavior and the consequences of inappropriate behavior.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Camper Signature: \_\_\_\_\_