



CAMERA MOBILE PHONES – MOBILE PHONES - CAMERAS

What do we do with youth members, with camera phones or cameras who might be taking, unacceptable pictures with their cameras or mobile phones?

1. To ask someone to show you what they took with their camera can involve privacy issues, so we suggest you don't. If they offer that's a little different, providing you haven't threatened them.
2. There are many digital cameras just as small and even more powerful than phones. What's a camp or activity if you can't take pictures. Remember the hue and cry when swimming pools, schools etc started the blanket banning of cameras. It is quite acceptable to ask youth members not to take cameras etc to the showers or toilets.
3. Banning mobile phones? No, most parents feel safer if their child can carry their own mobile phone. Especially true when away from home on patrol hikes, Jamborees etc. However parents should be warned how easily they get damaged or lost, causing the child a deal of anxiety.

SO WHAT TO DO ABOUT SOMEONE POTENTIALLY TAKING UNACCEPTABLE PHOTO'S?

WHAT TO DO TO STOP A CHILD TELEPHONING PEOPLE TO TELL THEM LITTLE JOHN HAS BEEN HURT, BEFORE THE LEADERS CAN?

Think like a Leader. Your job is not to control youth members but guide and help them develop responsibility.

Have THEM develop the Pack/Troop/Unit code of conduct and ask THEM to consider if it should include a code on:-

- a) The taking of photos that could be embarrassing to others.
- b) Spreading the news of an accident, by phone, before the Leader has had a chance to notify the parents.
- c) Preventing loss and damage.

This is the most reasonable solution and encourages them to think of repercussions. It is also wise to remind parents that if they insist on their child taking expensive cameras and phones that they are easily lost or damaged at activities and camps. Often causing anxiety, so you could suggest that they would be safely stored in the Leaders tent overnight, or during the camp and access given freely.

YOU ARE HELPING THEM TO BE RESPONSIBLE AND LEARN TO THINK .

In this day of instant photos, unlike the old film that had to be developed by the chemist, no one sees it, and in most cases youth members take certain photos for a joke. If they know this is unacceptable to their peers they will be less inclined to take them because they cannot show them.

**SO ALLOW CAMERAS and MOBILE PHONES
BUT ENSURE THEY ESTABLISH**

A CLAUSE WITHIN THEIR SECTION'S CODE OF CONDUCT DEALING WITH APPROPRIATE USE.

State Headquarters Members Support Team

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Regional Support Team

Consult your Region Office for their contact details.