



CAPE FEAR BOTANICAL GARDEN

# Camp, Field Trip & Education Programs Behavior Policy

The Cape Fear Botanical Garden would like to ensure the best possible experience for all campers and program participants. Safety is always our first priority. The program participant expectations below will enable a safe and enjoyable experience for all. When a situation does develop where a program participant is not meeting our expectations, we expect our staff to handle the situation in a positive way with reference to the steps below.

## **Program Participant Expectations:**

- 1. Be safe.** Always follow camp rules and directions from staff. Stay with the class when walking in the Garden.
- 2. Be kind to other campers, volunteers, and staff.** We should never have aggressive behavior, hitting, shoving, or kicking! Use kind words and appropriate language. Listen quietly while the instructor is talking so that all campers can hear.
- 3. Treat the Garden with respect.** Be nice to our plants and don't walk in our garden beds! Handle class supplies appropriately.

Staff will supervise campers at all times and use positive reinforcement, redirection, and empathy to work with individual students. In some cases warnings, timeouts, and calling parents may be necessary.

## **Steps in Addressing Behavior Concerns:**

Depending on the severity of the behavior and the age of the participant, staff may repeat or skip steps as needed. Particular behaviors including but not limited to fighting, bullying, possession of a weapon, or vandalism may result in immediate dismissal.

Step 1: Verbal warning (As specific as possible) – In some cases a one-on-one conversation with a camper may be helpful to restate expectations and work towards a better solution.

Step 2: Time out or time away from the group for no more than one minute per year of the child's age.

Step 3: Notify parent or guardian. Staff may call a parent or guardian to pick up the child if necessary. Refunds will not be available if a child is sent home.