

# Common Sense media agreement for parents and teens

(For use at home, you don't need to send this back to camp)

Online life is a privilege and with it comes some expectations about how teens responsibly use the freedoms they get to create and communicate. One really important way to insure kids know what's expected is to have a really clear conversation about all the important issues raised in online life. Because so much of online life happens without parental scrutiny, we suggest using a media agreement like the one below to facilitate understanding and clarity. If parents know their teens know how to use the Internet and social networks responsibly, then they can operate with more trust and freedom. We suggest sitting down with your teens and going through this media agreement. Have a great talk. Amend what doesn't work for your family. But definitely go through the exercise. You'll be amazed how it helps build trust and open lines of communication.

---

## **I will protect my reputation and privacy.**

- I will set all my privacy settings on Facebook to what my parents and I agree is the right level of privacy.
- I will not give out my personal information (like my address) to someone I don't know.
- I will not post or send sexy or scandalous photos.
- I will not post anything on my profile that I wouldn't want my parents, teachers, college admissions officers, or future employers to see.
- I will demonstrate my maturity.
- I agree to only use Facebook and the Internet responsibly and not be hurtful to anyone.
- I agree not to use technology to cheat in games or in school.
- I agree not to post anything that would compromise another person's privacy.
- I agree to flag and report content that is offensive or inappropriate.
- I will be mindful of how much media I consume and will balance it with other activities in my life.
- I will confide in an adult if anything potentially dangerous happens online.

## **With regard to Camp Marshall**

- I will not use my cell phone and or any device that will access the internet at camp.
- I will not text or call staff at camp or in the off season.
- When I use the internet to say "hi" to a staff person I will use a common "public" page like the Facebook page for the Episcopal Diocese of Montana. There I will post messages on the wall.

- If I am a "Facebook Friend" with a staff person – I may post comments on the wall but not use private message or instant message for a private conversation with that staff person.

## **I will think first.**

- I know that not everything I read or see is true, and I will think about whether a source or person is credible.
- I agree to think about and understand anything I download or any survey I fill out.

## **I will earn my independence and my parents' trust.**

- I will help my parents understand why Facebook and online life is so important to me.
- I will show them how to use the tools that I like if they're interested in learning.
- I will recognize that my safety and wellbeing is more important to them than anything else.

## **In exchange, my parents agree to:**

- Be open-minded about the media that I love and recognize that it's a big part of my life, even if they don't always understand why.
- Let me make some mistakes and help me learn from them.
- Before saying "no," talk with me about what worries them and why.
- Respect my privacy and talk to me if they have concerns.
- Embrace my world: try to understand downloads, IM, online games, and Web sites that I like.

---

SIGNED BY ME

SIGNED BY MY PARENTS