



Electronics Policy

Walden is a “screen-free” community! We forbid cell phones, smart watches, hand-held video games, iTouches, and anything else with the capacity to play video. We adhere strongly to the belief that campers need a break from these items.***

While we do use Apple Mac Minis for digital photography, radio and video classes; pull out the TVs for major sporting events; or provide popcorn and a movie as a rare cabin reward, camp remains almost entirely out-of-reach of the mass media.

Nook and Kindle eReaders should also be left at home. Walden has an ever-expanding lending library of children’s/teen books for those voracious readers.

*(***Banned electronics will be taken from campers and stored in the camp office or sent home at the camper’s expense. If your camper wants to bring his/her music to camp, and it is on a cell phone, iTouch, Nano or other item with a screen, then it **must be transferred to a SCREEN-FREE MP3 player.** Please discuss with your camper about HOW s/he plans to bring his/her music to camp.)*

Cell Phones

Most parents are relieved to know that their campers will have little to no access to computers and TVs at Walden. But the ban on cell phones causes some parents great angst. After all, many of you text and talk to your children throughout the day on mobile phones. Communicating with them is how you know they are safe. But camp is a different environment. It requires you, and them, to “let go” of the hi-tech tether.

Aside from the fact that cell phones are expensive and can get lost or stolen, there is a fundamental problem with campers having phones at camp: Trust. Sending a cell phone to camp is like saying to your child that you are not entirely comfortable with them being in our care.

When campers come to Walden they—and you—are making a leap of faith, placing the responsibility for their health and wellness with us and their counselors. The independence that children experience from this temporary separation is an important way they develop greater resilience, and learning to trust caring adults and solve their own problems is also among the most rewarding outcomes of camp.

So please do not put your camper in the uncomfortable position of asking him or her to bring a phone to Walden “just in case.” If a situation arises at camp for which you need to be contacted, we will surely do so. Nor should you look the other way when your teenager “secretly” packs his or her phone. *When we find them, we take them and mail them back home at the camper’s expense.*

Thanks for partnering with us on this important issue!