

# The Eliot Institute

## Code of Ethics For All Campers

Adults and older youth who are in leadership roles are in a position of stewardship and play a key role in fostering the spiritual development of individuals and the community. It is, therefore, especially important that those in leadership positions be well qualified to provide the special nurture, care, and support that will enable children and youth to develop a positive sense of self and a spirit of independence and responsibility. The relationship between young people and their leaders must be one of mutual respect if the positive potential of their relationship is to be realized. Respect on the leader's part must include recognition of the absolute right to the privacy of their own bodies and minds.

There are no more important areas of growth than those of self-worth and the development of a healthy identity as a sexual being. Adults play a key role in assisting children and youth in these areas of growth. Thus, leaders will refrain from engaging in behavior or language which is personally threatening or demeaning. Wisdom dictates that children, youth and adults suffer damaging effects when leaders become sexually involved with young persons in their care; therefore, leaders will refrain from sexually harassing behavior and from engaging in sexual, seductive, or erotic behavior with children and youth. This applies to all people acting in a staff capacity. Young adults who are in a romantic/sexual relationship with a member of the youth program should not take positions as youth staff. It is an ethical conflict for a member of the youth staff to enter into a new intimate relationship with a program participant.

Staff members will not directly supervise anyone with whom they already have an established significant relationship without preapproval by the Dean(s) and the Board Chair or designate.

Neither shall leaders encourage or promote any sort of illegal activities on the part of children and youth.

Leaders shall be informed of this Code of Ethics and agree to it before assuming their role. In cases of violation of this code, appropriate action will be taken.

*I have read and understand the above:*

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

Adopted: 4-94