

## **2013 'Electronics Free Camp' Guidelines:**

### **Philosophy of our 'electronics free camp' environment:**

As much as electronics, computers, the internet and social media are important parts of our lives in the city, at camp we believe that children benefit greatly by having a respite from these technological ways of relating to others and of preoccupying themselves.

We believe that...

- **By creating an 'electronics free camp' environment, kids learn to more directly engage in the interpersonal relationships that are such an important part of bunkhouse and communal life. Electronic media and games separate kids and privatize experience, as well as promote virtual rather than real friendship and interaction. Without the constant presence of electronic and virtual media, kids also more directly experience the natural rhythms and rustic beauty of life at the ranch.**
- **PLEASE SUPPORT US by reminding your child about our policies regarding electronics and explaining why its valuable to get away from the 'screens' and games for a while to really enjoy nature and the special world of living with other kids at camp.**

### **Please Do not bring the following items to camp:**

- Any electronics that have the capacity to access the Internet or WIFI.
- Multi-functional electronics, electronic devices/games with applications of any kind.
- DVD, I-phone, I-pad, laptop computers, or other electronics that can have downloaded games, movies, TV shows or software of any kind.
- Cell phones, Blackberries, or the like. **NOTE ABOUT CELL PHONES:** If you'd like your child to bring a cell phone on the bus they may, but their counselors will then collect them for safe keeping and return them when camp is over. *If your camper wants an alarm clock or camera, please send them separately as cell phones cannot be used for these purposes at camp.*
- **NOTE ABOUT I-PODS OR MP3 PLAYERS:** since music listening is such an important part of children's and teenager's enjoyment, MP3 players or mini-IPods that only have the functionality for playing music maybe brought to camp. Music listening privately or sharing songs with small speakers is allowed during siesta time in the afternoons and when kids are going to sleep in their bunks at night---but is not allowed outside of the cabin during daytime or evening activities.