

Cell Phone and Electronics Policy

Youth Participants—No cell phones. Leave your phone at home. No electronics.

Young Adult and Adult Participants—Cell phones are allowed but their use for personal matters should be very limited. Avoid using the phone in front of youth, except for matters related to Go and Serve, such as photos and music.

Reasons for the Cell Phone Policy

An important experience of Go and Serve is living in Intentional Christian Community (ICC). We define ICC as sharing a life of prayer, work, study, service, and fellowship in a context of healthy Christian behavior that seeks to give love, grace, mercy, and respect to all. Everyone at a youth event is expected to be a part of the community. This is difficult to achieve if there is frequent communication via text or social media with those outside of the community. Leaving cell phones behind while on Go and Serve may be challenging because of the deviation from normal behavior. However, it is a necessary step to achieve our goals of ICC.

Why Not Allow Cell Phones During Free Time?

In the past, we have allowed cell phone use during specific free time. Unfortunately, not all youth have kept phones put away during restricted times; and sometimes, phone use has become disruptive to others, especially late at night. Moreover, we have had instances where youth have distributed photos or information about events or people that are not positive. This resulted in hurt feelings and negative exposure for our program. This is the antithesis of ICC. We are unable to keep this from happening without eliminating the tools that allow it.