

Georgia Teen Institute Technology Policy

Georgia Teen Institute (GTI) recognizes that more and more frequently, our lifestyles include using cell phones, tablets and other devices on a regular basis. For this reason, in 2014, GTI established a new technology policy that encourages healthy and safe use of these items while at GTI; this policy will continue for the 2015 program.

Attending GTI gives youth participants a chance to experience a week on a college campus, learn new and exciting things and make new friends. Our busy schedule affords little time for using technology. However, youth and adult participants will be encouraged to use technology for social media during specific sessions during the week. Though we have chosen to embrace social media, bringing a cell phone, tablet or other device is not a requirement to come to GTI and parents/guardians can decide whether their youth may participate. Parents/Guardians who decide to allow their youth to bring technology should know that GUIDE, Inc., GTI and Oxford College are not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items.

Youth participants who bring cell phones, tablets or other devices to GTI must turn them in to their respective Adult Advisor during registration. The device(s) will be available for youth to check out and use at designated times. Adult Advisors may specify a time either in the morning or evening during time in the dorm that youth participants may use their devices. GTI supports the decision made by the Adult Advisor as long as the devices are collected and youth are under the supervision of the Adult Advisor at all times while the devices are in use.

Please know that by limiting use of technology, we are not trying to prevent parents/guardians from contacting their youth or vice versa. Rather, we are trying to keep the youth safe. The majority of camps still do not allow cell phones. Camps and youth conferences across the country are dealing with lawsuits and hurt feelings, and some are even faced with shutting their doors because youth bring cell phones and then do youth-like things with them in the camp setting (e.g., take pictures of people in towels or changing clothes; send bullying texts, IMs, etc. to others in the program; make plans to meet up with someone after hours; or lose their phones), and we are trying to avoid these issues at GTI. We do not want these types of issues to be a part of the GTI experience, though we do want to support current trends by providing the opportunity to engage in structured use of technology.

With this recent addition to our program, our hope is to provide an opportunity to the young people we serve to engage with GTI on various social media platforms while reminding them to continue to make safe and healthy choices in all aspects of life. We encourage all of those interested in seeing what we are doing at GTI to visit our website and social media channels:

www.georgiati.org	www.guideinc.org/blog	www.facebook.com/guidegti	www.instagram.com/guidegti
www.pinterest.com/guidegti	www.youtube.com/guidegti	www.twitter.com/guidegti	

At GTI, in an effort to keep everyone safe, healthy and focused on having a positive experience, we will not tolerate:

- Use of cell phones, tablets or other devices during any session unless specifically designated as a time to engage with GTI's planned social media efforts;
- Use of cell phones, tablets or other devices during free times without supervision by Adult Advisors;
- Photographs, videos, emails, text messages or social media posts that are considered to be offensive, negative, hurtful or explicit toward other participants;
- Photographs, videos, emails, text messages or social media posts that are considered to be offensive, negative, hurtful or explicit or could defame GUIDE, Inc., Georgia Teen Institute or Oxford College;
- Participants having a username or handle that is considered to be offensive, negative, hurtful or explicit;
- Participants under the age of 18 connecting with GTI Staff members over the age of 18 on any social media channel (i.e., friending, following, subscribing, etc.).

The technology policy will be strictly enforced, and we ask that all youth and adult participants adhere to this policy. Consequences for noncompliance to the policy may range from confiscation of the device until the end of the week to immediate dismissal from the program. It is at the GTI Director's discretion to determine the consequence resulting from the infraction.