

BRADFORD WOODS DISCIPLINE POLICY

Based on the philosophy of Bradford Woods and the belief that environmental education is an experiential process, we have developed guidelines and practices that utilize gentle and supportive techniques for managing student behavior. We train our staff to use a variety of behavior management techniques, including positive reinforcement, verbal prompting, non-verbal cues, activity restructuring, and regrouping. The staff is encouraged to utilize these techniques to formulate their own management style to maintain control of the group.

To support the efforts of our instructors and to ensure the best possible experience for everyone, Bradford Woods has elected to include a discipline policy to be utilized as a back-up if behavior management is not effective.

During orientation, the participants are informed of the Bradford Woods rules and expectations. If participants are unable to follow these guidelines or those set by their individual leaders through normal behavior management techniques then they choose the following consequences:

1st Strike Consequence: participant receives a warning about the inappropriate behavior

2nd Strike Consequence: participant must talk with appropriate person(s) about their behavior

3rd Strike Consequence: to be decided upon by the participating organization and Bradford Woods

We must take caution in how we allocate strikes and make sure that the behavior merits such a response. A strike should be given when a participant continues to behave inappropriately after being asked to stop. There may be occasions when the program coordinator, school teacher, or program leader decides that a certain behavior requires a swifter punishment. For example, a fist fight may mean a direct call to the participant's parents to come and take that person home.

There are also certain circumstances where Bradford Woods may step in and ask that a participant be removed from program. This would happen if the participant was compromising the safety or experience of the others.

It is critical to the success of the program that both participating program leaders and Bradford Woods staff members respect and use the chosen discipline policy, to promote a sense of consistency and fairness.



Indiana University's Outdoor Center