

AIO Cell Phone/Electronics Policy

The Acadia Institute of Oceanography has implemented a no cell phone and no electronics policy. These electronics include but are not limited to ipads, ipods, kindles, electronic video games and laptops (an Ipad or laptop required for note taking must be cleared in advance with the Director). As cell phone service providers have discovered Mt. Desert Island, more service has become available. While most students have honored our original policy, they continue to be focused on trying to get a signal, texting and generally spending more time with their heads down looking at the phone rather than engaging with other students. Staff reports that it can be difficult to get students off of their phones before bed and that they sometimes receiving upsetting texts, which can make being away from home even more difficult. I do understand that students traveling alone will want their cell phone to stay in touch with family until they, so we will collect any cell phones on arrival day and return them on the last day.

We will continue to maintain a landline from which students can receive or make free calls in the US or Canada during certain free time blocks (1-2 pm, 5-6 pm and 9-10 pm). That number is 207-276-9364. Students can also receive emails on the program computer kept in the lecture hall. Be sure they have a useable email address that doesn't require verification so that they can access it from our computer.

We have 2 desktop computers with internet and word processing capability for the student's use. Students will not have access to an Internet signal for their personal devices and any students found "hacking" the signal will lose the privilege to use our computers.

If students wish to take photos bring a digital or film camera. We also take lots of photos and post them regularly on Facebook and then on Flickr, where you can download them. We encourage students to bring a book to read, or borrow one from our library.

Though we realize it can be difficult for parents to not speak with their child everyday, they will be engaged in new activities, new friends and a busy schedule. Our Facebook page will keep you updated with regular posts and photos. Rest assured we would contact you if there are issues that your child is struggling to overcome, or any medical issues. You are also always welcome to contact me to "check in" on how your child is doing. I do teach within the program so, if you don't get me on the phone right away, understand that I'm with your kids and that I'll return your call or email when I'm free.

Thank you for understanding and helping to enforce these policies at AIO.

Sherry Christy Gilmore
207-276-9825
sherry@acadiainstitute.com