

# 11-14 YEAR OLDS

"According to parents they are too young for love, too old for fun, too smart to play dumb, and too immature for grown up conversations. It is no wonder teens are so rebellious"

- Anonymous.

## Developmental Snapshot

### Learning:

Has definite interests and knows what they are "good" at; capable of prolonged interest. Can take information from many different arenas and apply them to real life situations. Is alert, poised, and concerned with fads; argues logically.

Has focused talents and designated skills. Ex: a soccer star, the artist, the class clown

Have a fixation on rules and roles. In school all students have their designated role and it is hard to deviate from that, once it is "assigned"

Understands the idea of delayed gratification and the ability to weigh pros and cons. Understands consequences, rules, and expectations.

### Social:

Pushes away from parents and prefers relationships with peers. Tests boundaries of authority figures

Is concerned with others view points of them. Constantly attempts to fit into something (even when trying to stand out)

Boys and girls are even more different at this age. Separation between the gender in social groups, however romantic feelings begin, usually starting with girls sooner than boy.

Girls- often group together in groups with one fixed leader. Many times girls develop passive-aggressive behaviors during this period of their life

### Emotional:

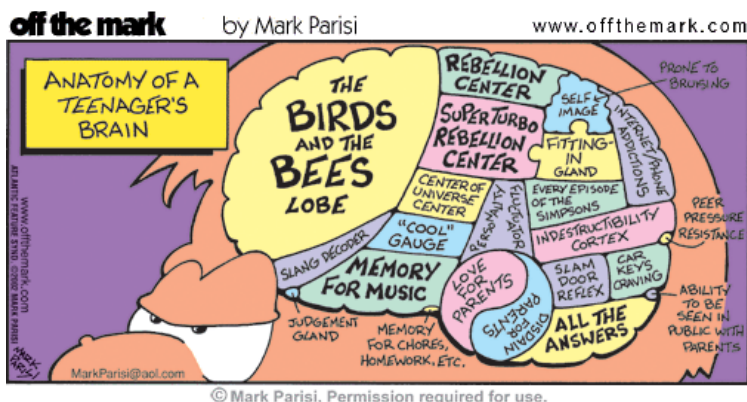
Is very conscious of own self and the opinion of others about themselves. This is usually the backbone of all conscious and unconscious activities.

## WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE AT OUTPOST:

11-14 year olds are in the midst of a huge transition in their life! Every day they discover something new about themselves and attempt to "fit" into the world around them. They need opportunities for leadership, engaging activities, and **genuine** relationships with the staff. Teens can tell when you are genuine and when you don't care.

### You can EXPECT to see:

- **Self-evaluation.** Girls and boys assign value to themselves based on the things around them. This value is often set by comparison to someone or something else.
- **FOCUS ON THEMSELVES.** Everything is a big deal. No matter what you do EVERYTHING is about them. Few that wants to stand out. There will be a few individuals that desire to be the center of attention and the others that just want to follow and be accepted. They are trying to answer the question "Where do I fit?"
- **TOXIC BEHAVIOR.** With the desire to fit "in" adolescent girls and boys will display toxic behavior. This can be seen in excluding others, using sarcasm or bad language, or inappropriate sexual comments. These are not things that are "camp appropriate" but they are things that all teenagers experience.
- **Paradoxical desire for boundaries.** Teens need to have rules but also do not appear to actively desire them. By being proactive with rules and expectations you can set your group up for success.



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