

Presbytery of the Southwest Young People's Camp Guidelines

(Revised May 2014)

GENERAL CAMP DATA

1. **PURPOSE:** To build up the Regional Church through relationships formed by study of God's Word and its application to the world in which we live, and the sharing of fun activities.

2. **IMPLEMENTATION OF PURPOSE:**

A. Relationships, as the keys to life long friendships and future working in God's kingdom, built-up primarily through adult to camper friendship, and secondarily through camper to camper friendship.

B. At camp these relationships can be built in two areas:

- 1) Study of God's Word, worship services, cabin times, informal counseling (one on one).
- 2) Fun activities such as team competitions, meal times, skits, swimming, hiking etc, help produce the following: contagious enthusiasm to work together, forgiving attitudes, transparency/openness, modeling your life, joy of life with God's people, freedom to fail and try again.
- 3) The above activities overlap many times in the course of a day in camp.

3. **REGISTRATION FORMS:** Every Camper, Counselor, member of the Work Crew, and other Staff person needs to submit a signed registration/medical form.

4. **COUNSELOR MEETINGS:** Counselors will meet daily with the Camp Committee. Only Counselors, Staff, and work crew representatives may attend Counselor Meetings. If a Counselor encounters any difficult problem, please speak with the Head Counselor and/or Camp Director to obtain further help.

5. **COUNSELOR DUTIES:** Counselor duties fall into two areas:

- A. Coach
- B. Counselor

6. **PERMISSION TO LEAVE:** Campers, Counselors, and Staff are not to leave the premises of the camp without the permission of the Camp Director.

7. **PARTICIPATION:** Attendance at all functions is an essential part of camp for Campers and Counselors. Counselors are to see that their assigned Campers are at each function. At each meetings and event, Counselors are responsible to count noses and report absentees to a member of the Committee. During meetings, Campers may not leave buildings for restroom. Counselors are to spread out in worship services.

8. **EXEMPTION FROM PARTICIPATION:** Excuse from participation in any camp activity must be granted by the Camp Director. This applies to Campers and especially to Counselors.

9. **ILLNESS AND INJURIES:** All illnesses and injuries must be reported immediately by Counselors to the Camp Director. The Nurse has First Aid remedies.

10. **FREE TIME:** Free Time is for voluntary activities such as swimming, volley ball, playing musical instruments, doing crafts, etc. Campers and Counselors may take naps. Please do not leave the camp property.

11. **VISITORS:** Visitors should notify the Camp Director to obtain permission to be on the property. However, the current property is not very conducive to having visitors, since they may not be unaccompanied while on the premises.

12. **DINING HALL:** At each meal, Counselors will be allowed into the dining hall before the Campers. Please spread out making sure that there is at least one Counselor per table. Do not sit with your spouse or other Counselors unless every table has at least one Counselor. This is a good opportunity to meet and get to know a variety of Campers throughout the week. Please initiate and encourage conversation and good manners around the table. Unless otherwise instructed, Campers may sit with anyone they choose. Inter-table banter/chants will be allowed at lunch only. Please remain seated throughout the meal and announcements. Counselors and Campers must be present at all meals, unless excused for illness.

13. **CABIN RULES:** No boys in girls' cabins and visa versa.

14. **RESPECT FOR FACILITIES:** Please do not destroy or damage any of their facilities or equipment. If the facility is in some way defaced, damaged, or destroyed, by someone (or several) in our camp, the person(s) responsible will be assessed the cost of the damage.

15. **GROUNDS CLEAN-UP:**

A. Daily clean-up: Everyone's cooperation is needed to pick-up trash whenever you see it. Keep Alto Frio beautiful!

B. Final clean-up: It is our responsibility to clean-up the entire camp ground before we depart.

16. **CABIN CLEAN-UP:** Beds must be made before breakfast, bathrooms straightened up. There will be a daily inspection of the Camper cabins. The thermostats are pre-set by the property management, and should be left alone. If the temperature is lowered, the air conditioning unit can malfunction.

17. **MORNING PRAYER:** Each morning, a team prayer time is held at the team's meeting location.

18. **CABIN TIME:** Each evening, in each cabin, Counselors take turns guiding a discussion time of about 10 to 15 minutes for bedtime devotional. The group may pray, talk about the sermon heard that day, or let it roll with what's on the kids' minds. Please stay in your cabins for devotions and do not disturb other cabins having their cabin times.

19. **CURFEW:** Lights Out on the daily schedule means Campers and Counselors are to be in their respective cabins and beginning to zzzzz! Counselors, enforce this! Rest is important for Campers and Counselors alike.

20. **PRANKS:** No pranks, raids, serenades, trashing, or sneaking out is allowed. Counselors are responsible for this rule's enforcement and Campers are subject to discipline if this rule is broken.

21. **MAIL:** Campers' mail will be distributed at meal times. Letters may be sent out.

22. **NIGHT ACTIVITIES:** Some evenings are part of team competition and others are not. Whether or not a team activity is involved, all Campers and Counselors must attend.

23. **TALENT SHOW:** The Talent Show is an occasion for Campers, Counselors, and Work Crew and other Staff to voluntarily participate in a non-team setting. Vocal and instrumental music, skits, drama, singing, mime, monologues, readings, etc., may be done. Participation may be individual or with others. Material is to be brief and may be humorous, serious, or overtly Christian, etc. Sign-up with the Camp Director, and/or Head Counselor. Nothing of a destructive nature will be allowed. All performances are subject to Committee approval.

24. **DRESS CODE:** Modest and appropriate clothing should be worn at all times. Swim suits must be one piece for girls/women, but nothing extreme. No racing suits for boys/men. Shirts must be worn at all times, including athletic events. Writing on shirts should not have reference to alcohol, sex, drugs, violence, or insults. Boys/men should remove hats during prayers and worship services. Shoes or sandals must be worn in buildings. The Committee will interpret the words “modest” and “appropriate” on a yearly basis as styles change.

25. **TOBACCO USE:** There is no tobacco use permitted on the camp property.

COMPETITION

26. **TEAM THEME:** Camper groups will be organized into teams. Mixed in age and gender, they are set up for fellowship within the team and among other teams. Camp is geared toward completion of activities and events by all the teams. The team with the most points wins prizes and recognition at the end of the week.

27. **TEAM MEETINGS:** There are set times for team meetings for preparation and planning of team activities. Much of the teams’ points (i.e. memory work, skits, etc.) depends on good use of team meeting time. A spot for your team’s meetings will be assigned.

28. **TEAM:** Christian attitudes must prevail as the Campers and Counselors work together and have fun. Points will be awarded for team activities. Points are awarded according to the Team Point Schedule. The Young People's Camp Committee will itself judge or choose judges, as necessary, for judging the skits, etc.

29. **CAMPER/COUNSELOR PARTICIPATION:** All team activity is designed for the widest participation of the Campers. Counselors are to participate in everything. Enthusiasm and participation, not ability, are crucial. Excel. What you do, do for God's glory. Except for emergencies, Counselors are not to leave cabins after Campers are in bed for the night.

30. **ILLNESSES AND INJURIES:** In regards to teams, there will be no penalty for the absence of a camper or counselor due to illness, injury, etc., if this is reported to the Activities Director prior to the event. Campers must be accompanied by a counselor when visiting the camp nurse.

31. **TEAM COMPETITION POINTS:** Team points will be awarded to every team in every event. Spirit points also count.

32. **TEAM NAME, CHEER, ETC:** Judge's criteria: originality, catchiness, brevity, clarity, art.

33. **MEMORIZATION:** Memory work is a very significant part of the teams. In team competition this carries more weight than any other activity at camp, memory work is to be done as much as possible during the team meeting. For Scripture memory work, recitation includes both the Scripture reference

and the passage. For Catechism memory work, recitation includes both the question and answer. The Hymn may be sung with a partner to the Coach. Individuals recite memory work to one of their Coaches. Teams receive points for each catechism, each scripture passage recited, and hymn sung. The Coach is to use the form provided to keep track of the total number of catechism, Bible passages, and hymns recited by members of the team and report the totals by the announcement deadline to the Program Director. In case of uneven numbers of Campers on teams, total memory work points will be divided by the number of Campers on each team.

34. **SKITS:** Skits are to be planned and practiced as much as possible during team meeting time. Make sure your team begins developing your skit idea and begins practice during one of the first team meetings. Don't use a skit that has been used in the recent past. Clear your skit with the Camp Director or other Committee member. In your team meeting draw out your Campers so that they develop the skit idea and that in the performance of the skit that it is more camper led than counselor led.

A. Skits will be judged on the following criteria:

- 1) Fits with the fun theme of the camp
- 2) Camp related/interactive
- 3) No more than 5 minutes long
- 4) Dramatic/Funny
- 5) Participation by every member in the team (including Counselors)
- 6) Camper dominated participation
- 7) Originality

B. In regards to team points in the skits, there will be no penalty for the absence of a camper or counselor participant due to illness, injury, etc., if the absence is reported to the Camp Director prior to the skit performance.

C. Prop-making items may be available upon request in the meeting room.

35. **PROGRAM:** The Program Directors are in charge of announcements, dining hall music, walk ons, and activities. Do not ask to use the microphone or bring cds to the dining hall to be played.

36. **BANQUET:** The Banquet is an awards and dress-up occasion on a specific evening during camp. Taking "a date" or "dates" is optional. Counselors, during the week, please note humorous anecdotes involving Campers and report these at Counselors' Meetings.

37. **CHAPEL:** As in the dining hall, counselors should spread out in chapel. Encourage campers to participate. If you notice that any of your campers are missing, notify a committee person. Food should not be brought to chapel, but water bottles are permitted.

38. **ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Campers are discouraged from using electronic devices during camp. This includes music players, radios, computers, game systems, phones, etc. Alarm clocks are allowed. Campers should not be texting and calling their friends during camp activities.

39. **ENERGY DRINKS:** Campers are not permitted to have or consume energy drinks.

WORK CREW

40. **SERVICE:** As members of the Work Crew, your duties come before personal interests as you give yourself wholeheartedly in service to the Lord, the Campers, and the Staff. The Work Crew shall normally consist of approximately ten post high school young people. Priority will be given to those graduating seniors who can no longer be Campers, then to others as the Camp Committee so chooses. Priority will be given to young people from the Regional Church of the Presbytery of the Southwest. (OPC).

41. **WORK CREW BOSS:** The Committee shall appoint a Work Crew Boss and Assistant Work Crew Boss. The Work Crew is immediately responsible to the Work Crew Boss and the Assistant Work Crew Boss. The Work Crew Boss should not leave the Work Crew unsupervised.

42. **PERMISSION TO LEAVE:** Work Crew members may not leave the camp facility or miss their assigned tasks without permission from the Work Crew Boss.

43. **PARTICIPATION:** Work Crew members are to participate in all events on the Work Crew Schedule. The Work Crew is not part of the teams. Scheduling for the Work Crew dovetails with the Camper Schedule (i.e., meal times, worship services, competitions,) at certain points and runs independently of it at other points (i.e., swimming, kitchen duty, cabin inspections, etc.).

44. **CONDUCT:** The Christian rules of conduct for Campers, Counselors, and other Staff shall apply to the Work Crew. Even if of legal age, consumption of alcoholic beverages by the Work Crew is prohibited.

45. **DAILY WORK CREW MEETINGS:** A daily meeting of the Work Crew will be held during the team meeting time for the purpose of lining out the work to be done, reviewing work performance, prayer, and a brief Bible study related to kingdom service.

46. **DIVISION OF LABOR:** The Work Crew Boss may divide the Work Crew into sub-crews.

47. **TASKS:** The Work Crew is responsible to perform the tasks assigned them by the Young People's Camp Committee through the Work Crew Boss. They include filling water coolers; cleaning and setting up meeting rooms; moving equipment; setting and busing tables; grounds keeping; refereeing team competition; decorating for the banquet; judging cabin cleanup; and helping with the snack bar.

48. **CURFEW:** A curfew shall be set by the Camp Committee and enforced by the Work Crew Boss. Rest is important to function.

*****The End*****