

NAD Summer Camp Staff Child Protection Training – PRESENTER’S NOTES

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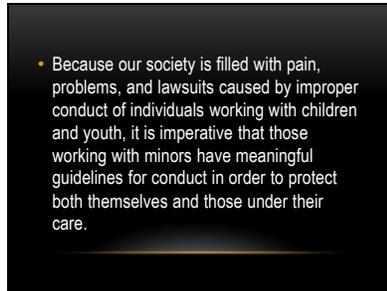
- It is recommended that you work closely with your conference’s Risk Management designee to provide additional material to assist with child/minor safety.
- You may invite a Social Worker from your local DHS, or a Law Enforcement Officer from your local police department. They can work with you closely and may provide great information for your staff training.

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Begin by inviting your Camp Staff to share their experience with God’s call to become a Camp’s Counselor.

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Share a story (or experience) that is relevant to this slide.

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Explain that there are several types of abuse. Following, you will go through the explanation of each type. For more information, go to www.acacamps.org/resource-library/child-abuse-prevention-resources

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If possible, give examples of each description.

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EMOTIONAL ABUSE

- Any pattern of behavior that impairs a child's emotional development or sense of self-worth, including constant criticism, threats and rejection.

NEGLECT

- Failure to provide for a child's basic needs.

If possible, give examples of each description.

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UNDERSTANDING THE FACTS

- Campers arriving to your camp may already be victims of abuse.
- 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be the victim of abuse before age 18.

www.acacamps.org/resource-library/child-abuse-prevention-resources

For more information, go to your local Department of Human Services (DHS) or Child Protection Services (CPS) website.

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WHAT A YOUTH CAMP PROFESSIONAL TEAM SHOULD BE LIKE...

(Group discussion)

Invite Camp Staff to share ideas of what their professional responsibilities should be at camp.

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Explain that you will be talking about what should be the appropriate interaction with minors, parents, and co-workers.

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Give relevant examples at Camp to illustrate the content. Invite staff to role play.

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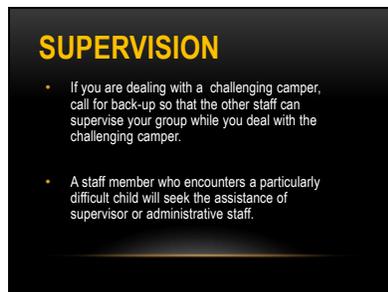


SUPERVISION

- Provide appropriate supervision at ALL times
- Under NO circumstances allow yourself to be alone with one child. Always, have two people when talking to a child. This protects the child as well as protects the adult from possible allegations.
- If a counselor needs to talk to a camper (alone), make sure that it is done in a public place (witnesses).

- It is very important that you give emphasis to these items. You may refer to your Camp and American Camping Association (ACA) policies on this topic.
- Campers should never be left alone in cabins or any other places while under your care.

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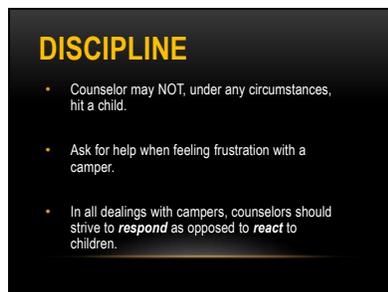


SUPERVISION

- If you are dealing with a challenging camper, call for back-up so that the other staff can supervise your group while you deal with the challenging camper.
- A staff member who encounters a particularly difficult child will seek the assistance of supervisor or administrative staff.

- It is very important that you give emphasis to these items. You may refer to your Camp and American Camping Association (ACA) policies on this topic.

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DISCIPLINE

- Counselor may NOT, under any circumstances, hit a child.
- Ask for help when feeling frustration with a camper.
- In all dealings with campers, counselors should strive to **respond** as opposed to **react** to children.

- It is very important that you give emphasis to these items. You may refer to your Camp policies on this topic.

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TOUCH

- When touching a minor, do so on the hand, shoulder, or upper back;
- In the company of other adults;
- Never in a place on a child's body that is normally covered by a bathing suit, unless for a clear medical necessity, and then only with supervision from another adult;

You may refer to the NAD Policy and the Appropriate Touch and Discipline documents at

http://adventistyouthministries.org/files/safety-guidelines/PDFs_Docs/AppropriateTouchDiscipline.pdf

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TOUCH

- Affirm children with appropriate touching by keeping hugs brief and "shoulder-to-shoulder" or "side-to-side."

*Always keep hands at (not below) the shoulder level.
For kids who like to sit on laps, encourage them to sit next to you.*

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CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS

- We cannot be too careful in the area of sexual abuse. Even the appearance of wrong or a false allegation can cause irreparable damage to the reputation of the accused staff member and the camp. All staff members must avoid doing anything that could be interpreted as sexual abuse.

- It is probable that some of your Camp Staff have been abused. Be prepared to hear stories and answer questions.

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CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS

- Child abuse includes, but is not limited to, any contact or interaction between a child and an adult when the child is being used for the sexual stimulation of the adult or of a third person.
- The behavior may or may not involve touching. Sexual behavior between a child and an adult is always considered forced, whether or not the child has consented.

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IF A CHILD IS ABUSED

- Believe them! Stay calm and limit the discussion.
- Support them, tell them that it was good they shared with you.
- Report the incident or any suspicions of abuse to the Camp Director and the authorities.

Any incident or allegations given from a minor should be documented and kept confidentially. The Camp director must work closely with Conference Administration and legal counsel to determine where the confidential files should be housed.

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FAILURE TO REPORT

- Failure to report frequently results in additional crimes.
- Failure to report can cause the camp to lose the respect and confidence of its supporting churches and local community.
- Failure to report can place the camp and the Conference in a weak ethical and legal position.

It is important that camp staff report to the camp director immediately of any suspected situations.

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COMMUNICATION & BOUNDARIES

- A staff member will under no circumstances share a bed or sleeping bag with a camper.
- Counselors will set limits with children who "cling" or hang on them.

Refer to the Camp's and ACA's policies.

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COMMUNICATION & BOUNDARIES

- Do NOT:
 - Share personal information with campers.
 - Write personal notes.
 - Comment on personal appearance in an inappropriate way ("beautiful, sexy or hot").
 - Buy campers gifts.

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COMMUNICATION & BOUNDARIES

- NO:
 - Texting with campers
 - Private emailing with campers
 - Asking campers to be their "social media" friend

These activities have resulted in accusations of inappropriate interaction with campers.

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CO-WORKERS

- No Dating “Minor” Staff
(under 18 years of age)

(Discuss your Camp Staff Policy)

If a Camp Staff is under 18 years of age, that Staff is a minor. Therefore, he or she should not be romantically involved with a staff 18 year old or older.

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Have a wonderful Summer!!