



Camp MennoScah  
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## Basic Guidelines for Safe Relationships with Campers

1. **Catch the big picture:** Christian camping is about providing a safe and nurturing place to experience God, nature and others. Jesus says, "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Luke 18:16
2. **Camp MennoScah will be a safe place** where affirmation, encouragement, community and good touch will happen. Teasing, bullying, harassment, isolation, inappropriate touch between staff and campers or between campers will not happen.
3. **Two staff shall be present** (combos of counselors, directors, summer staff, etc.) with any individual camper at all times. This basic procedure safeguards both the campers and the staff against inappropriate behavior and accusations.
4. **Touch with best interests of campers in mind and only with their permission.** Be aware of why you might want to touch someone. Ask before you touch. Understand good, bad and confusing touch.
5. **Set personal touch boundaries.** Safe places to touch are on shoulder, upper arm. Be aware that there is much we don't know about camper's home and private lives, including their history of touch and abuse. Do not encourage inappropriate touch from campers, as their personal boundaries may have been violated and they are not able to regulate appropriately.
6. **Realize you are in a position of power** over the campers because of your size, age, position.
7. **Model modesty.** Be modest in your clothing and appearance and when changing clothes or in bathrooms.
8. **Limit lingo.** Use language that does not include sexual innuendo or coarse slang or swearing. Commenting on a camper's development or body is not cool. Limit self-disclosure about your own body, development or relationships with the opposite sex.
9. **Practice and model self-regulation.** Be aware of when you are tired, thirsty, need a break and take care of yourself. Make sure the campers do too. Most kids are not able to self-regulate well and when they become exhausted or over stimulated, are more apt to lose control of themselves.
10. **Report.** Tell the program or camp director if you observe inappropriate activity or if you believe you placed yourself in a compromised situation. Be sure to fill out a Staff Protection Form as soon as you are able.