

# **Policies Established by the Dakotas United Methodist Board of Camping and Retreat Ministries**

## **BCRM**

- The Board of Camping and Retreat Ministries will only list items in the camping booklet that are sponsored by the BCRM. We will list the web addresses for other United Methodist camping programs.
- Events hosted by the Board of Camping and Retreats Ministry shall comply with the United Methodist Church social principles.

## ***Deans Responsibilities***

- Fulfill the responsibilities in the dean's job description
- Use program material that is approved by the Board. If wanting to use alternative materials, this material must be approved by the site director and the Executive Director prior to camp. All program material must be within the scope of the doctrinal standards found in the Book of Discipline, and the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church.

## **INSURANCE**

- The camp provides supplementary insurance for all campers and volunteers. This insurance is secondary and is limited to camp related incidents. All claims must be submitted to the camper's or volunteer's insurance company and the camp's insurance company.

## **CAMPER BEHAVIOR**

- A camper or volunteer who is a danger to themselves or others will be sent home.

## **MEDICATIONS**

- No prescription or over the counter medications will be kept in the cabins during BCRM sponsored events. The only exceptions will be inhalers and bee sting kits or other medications that a camper must keep with them.

## **POLICIES FOR CONFERENCE SPONSORED EVENTS**

- Campers attending children or youth camps are not permitted to use tobacco products.
- All buildings are tobacco free.
- Campers are not allowed to bring the following items to campsites: pets, firearms, knives, fireworks, alcohol, and any other controlled substance.
- Campers shall have access to call their parents or legal guardians at predetermined times except in cases of emergency.

## **PROGRAM**

### **AGE APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES.**

- Basketball: all ages
- Foursquare: all ages

- Kick Ball: all ages
- Softball: all ages
- Swimming: all ages with proper supervision
- Volleyball: all ages
- Wacky Olympics: all ages
- Paddle boating: 3<sup>rd</sup> grade + (under this age with an adult in the paddle boat)
- Tenting: 5<sup>th</sup> grade +
- Canoeing: 5<sup>th</sup> grade + (under this age with an adult in the canoe)
- Earth ball: (under the discretion of the site director)
- Kayaking: 7<sup>th</sup> grade + (under this age with an adult on the water)
- Low Ropes, climbing wall, zip line: 5<sup>th</sup> grade + **(operated only under the supervision of site staff with site specific policies)**
- Repelling wall, **spiders web**, giants ladder: 7<sup>th</sup> grade + **(operated only under the supervision of site staff with site specific policies)**
- Static lines: 9<sup>th</sup> grade + (operated only under the supervision of site staff with site specific policies)
- High Ropes courses will need an adult certified on Wesley Acres' course
- Challenge Courses: (with trained adult supervision)
- Backpacking: Based on programming needs.
- Rock Climbing: Professional @ specialty camp

#### **WATERFRONT**

- Campers will not drive motorized water vehicles.
- All adults and youth on water craft will wear personal flotation devices.
- Swimwear: One piece, unrevealing swimsuit. If you do not have a one piece suit, please bring a dark t-shirt to wear or one will be provided.

#### **LAKE ACTIVITIES – ALTERNATE REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIALTY CAMPS WHERE TEACHING IS PART OF THE PROGRAMMING.**

- Paddle boating: 3<sup>rd</sup> grade + (under this age with an adult in the paddle boat)
- Canoeing: 5<sup>th</sup> grade + (under this age with an adult in the canoe)
- Water Slide: 5<sup>th</sup> grade +
- Kayaking: 7<sup>th</sup> grade + (under this age with an adult on the water)
- Sailing: 7<sup>th</sup> + (under this age with an adult in the boat (with trained adult supervision)
- Tubing: 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up
- Water Skiing: 7<sup>th</sup> + (with trained adult supervision)
- Windsurfing: 7<sup>th</sup> + (with trained adult supervision)
- Diving and jumping from heights are only allowed at an approved ~~at a~~ swimming pool with a lifeguard present
- Swimming: all ages (with trained adult supervision)

#### **CAMP COUNSELORS**

- Counselors, paid and volunteer must be 19 years or older for campers 9<sup>th</sup> grade and younger, 21 years or older for 10<sup>th</sup> grade and older campers. This requirement may be waived only by prior written permission of the dean and site director. Background checks will be required on all counselors prior to camp.

The ratio of counselors to campers is as follows:

- 1 counselor per 5 campers for 4-5 year old campers
- 1 counselor per 6 campers for 6-8 year old campers
- 1 counselor per 8 campers for 9-14 year old campers

- 1 counselor per 10 campers for 15-18 year old campers

### **COUNSELORS IN TRAINING**

- The ratio of C.I.T.s to Campers is 1 C.I.T. per 20 campers or 2 C.I.T.s per cabin (1 female/1 male)
- C.I.T.s must be at least 16 years old and at least 3 years older than the campers. C.I.T.s are considered “campers” not counselors or volunteers. Therefore a C.I.T. cannot be left in charge of campers. C.I.T.s are only eligible to be a C.I.T. on approval of the dean.

### **STAFF (PAID AND VOLUNTEER)**

#### **Relationships:**

- Paid and volunteer staff members shall not have a dating relationship with campers or C.I.T.s.
- Staff (paid and volunteer), who disregard this policy will not be invited back as a staff member.

#### **Personal behavior – habits:**

- No smoking in buildings, No drinking, No illegal drugs, and No sexually intimate behaviors between unmarried partners.
- Two staff members should always be with campers or a single staff member may be with a camper if they are in public view.
- To provide privacy for our staff members, the bedrooms of the opposite sex are off limits.