

## I. LFC Youth Protection Protocol – Unit Camping

### A. Overall concept

These guidelines presuppose (i) that each unit-level camping activity will include enough registered adult leaders age twenty-one or older to effectively implement BSA and Last Frontier Council Youth Protection requirements and (ii) that all adults present at the activity for 72 total hours or more will be registered as adult leaders. (The 72 hours need not be consecutive.) Although BSA national standards do, in limited circumstances, permit unregistered adults to participate in unit outings (see above with respect to the 72-hour rule), it is the expectation of the Last Frontier Council that, absent truly exceptional circumstances, all adults participating in a unit camping activity will be registered BSA members (which, by definition, requires current Youth Protection training). This is a “best practice,” rather than a hard and fast requirement, but this best practice should be adhered to in all but truly exceptional circumstances.

### B. Camping Arrangements

1. If youth members of both genders will be participating in the camping activity (whether as one unit, via linked units or otherwise), the unit’s adult leadership participating in the activity must include at least one registered adult of each gender who is current on Youth Protection training.
2. If a unit will have youth members of both genders participating in the camping activity (whether as one unit, via linked units or otherwise), then, at the outset of the camping activity (either before departure or soon after arrival in camp), two registered adult leaders, one male and one female (both of whom must be age 21 or older), will be designated as the “go to” persons for any youth member who, for any reason, has been made to feel uncomfortable by the words or actions of anyone else in camp. The male and female leaders so designated will be identified to the youth members as the individuals who are available to any participant, at any time of the day or night, in the event that any youth member has been made to feel uncomfortable by the words or actions of anyone else in camp.
3. In all mixed gender camping activities (whether within same unit, via linked units or otherwise), one adult Youth Protection Champion will be assigned the specific, continuing responsibility to:
  - a. Implement tenting and other campsite arrangements so as to minimize the potential for youth protection incidents (youth/youth or adult/youth).
  - b. Watch for any indications of actual or potentially abusive conduct, and (i) promptly report any such issue to the adult unit leader (in addition to any other reporting requirements that may be applicable under BSA Youth Protection standards), and (ii) intervene as necessary to minimize the potential for a youth protection incident.

- c. Insure that separate shower and latrine facilities are provided for male and female adults as well as male and female youth. If separate facilities are not available, then the latrine should be equipped with (and all campers, adult or youth, should use) either (i) a male/female "Occupied" sign, or (ii) if the latrine does not have a closable doorway, a provision for visibly indicating, with a rope across the doorway or otherwise, that the latrine is occupied.
4. If any youth member occupies a tent alone overnight in a campsite in which there are campers of both genders (whether within same unit, via linked units or otherwise), then, beginning at the time designated for lights out and continuing until reveille, a registered adult leader will camp close enough to that campsite to be within easy earshot and a short walking distance from the tents in the campsite. The adult leader's tent need not be in the campsite as long as it is close enough to be within easy earshot and a short walking distance from the tents in the campsite. Youth members camping in the campsite will be informed of the presence and availability of that adult leader. It is the responsibility of the adult unit leader, or his or her designee, to ascertain whether any youth members will be tenting alone in a mixed-gender campsite. (A campsite will not be considered to be a "mixed-gender" campsite if the sleeping areas of male and female youth are far enough apart that, in the judgment of the adult unit leader, the likelihood of attempted inappropriate contact is clearly minimal, considering such factors as distance, physical barriers, visibility, and proximity of an adult sleeping area.) *In mixed-gender camping situations, the adult unit leader should give consideration to using this protocol in circumstances that indicate that it would be advisable to do so, even if there are no youth members tenting alone.*
5. All adult leaders participating in a camping activity should bear in mind that youth protection incidents may involve physical violence, sexual activity, emotional abuse, spiritual abuse, unauthorized weapons, hazing, discrimination, harassment, initiation rites, bullying, cyberbullying, theft, verbal insults, drugs, alcohol, and pornography.
6. Regardless of whether a unit camping activity itself involves mixed-gender camping, the adult unit leader must take reasonable action to inform himself or herself about any other camping (mixed gender or not, and whether or not Scouting-related) in the vicinity of the unit's campsite. Depending on the nature and proximity of any such activity, the unit leader must take any action necessary (including placement of adult leader tents or campsites) to facilitate the protection of the youth in the unit and to reduce the likelihood of youth protection incidents.
7. If a camper is found to be misusing cell phone capabilities, such as photography, the device may, in the discretion of the adult leader in charge, be confiscated. If a cell phone is confiscated, the return of the device may be conditioned on deletion of inappropriate images, data or photographs.
8. Sleeping accommodations

- a. Separate tenting arrangements for adult males and females and youth males and females are required.
  - b. Youth sharing tents must not be more than two years apart in age.
  - c. In Cub Scouting, parents and guardians may share a tent with their family members. In all other programs, youth and adults must tent separately.
  - d. Spouses may share tents.
9. Good leaders set the example and hold other leaders accountable for doing the same.