

### III. LFC Youth Protection Protocol – Long-Term Camping (more than 72 hours) – Scouts BSA, Exploring, Venturing and Sea Scouts

#### A. Basic camp protocols

1. All adults planning to participate in the camping activity for more than 72 hours (the 72 hours need not be consecutive) are required to (a) be registered adult leaders, (b) be 21 years or older, and (c) be current on Youth Protection Training, as shown by a card showing current Youth Protection Training or as shown by LFC or BSA National records.
2. If youth members of both genders are participating in the long-term camping activity (via linked units or otherwise), there must be at least one adult leader of each gender. There should be two (or more) adult leaders of each gender if at all possible. Otherwise stated, in mixed-gender camping activities, at least one adult leader of each gender must be present in camp at all times during the camping activity. In the event that there is only one male adult leader, or only one female adult leader, and that one leader should become unavailable to continue participating in the mixed-gender camping activity as an adult leader, the outing must be terminated.
3. Unit leaders must attend a mandatory orientation meeting to review guidelines, expectations, and consequences regarding any form of abuse or inappropriate behavior. The orientation meeting will also include guidelines for campsite setup, shower/bathroom and waterfront etiquette, and a review of reporting protocols for any problems. A zero-tolerance policy for any infractions will be communicated and enforced, just as with other potential problems such as drugs or alcohol.
4. All adult leaders 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.
5. For protection against inappropriate use, youth campers are encouraged to leave cell phones at home. Cell phones are not permitted in program areas. Adults are encouraged to use their cell phones as seldom as possible so as not to distract from the camping experience.
6. If a camper is found to be misusing cell phone capabilities, such as photography, the device may, in the discretion of the director of the event, be confiscated. If a cell phone is confiscated, the return of the device may be conditioned on deletion of inappropriate images, data or photographs.
7. Campers and their parents may be asked to sign a photography waiver allowing camp staff and the Last Frontier Council to use photographs of the campers for advertising and camp promotion through social media.

#### B. Camping/sleeping arrangements

1. All tents in unit campsites must house single gender youth or adults, unless the adults are married. Tent areas in campsites must have adequate separation of genders to satisfy youth protection guidelines. Youth sharing tents must not be more than two years apart in age unless they are siblings of the same gender. Youth campers over 18 years old (e.g., Venturers, Explorers or Sea Scouts) may only tent with other youth campers of the same gender, over 18 years old.

2. Council camps enforce the buddy system for all campers, at all areas, and at all times, day or night. Buddies must be of the same gender. In other words, no mixed gender, one-on-one contact is permitted at any time. Consequently, mixed groups of youth staff will consist of at least four staff members (two males/two females) when reasonably possible. (In situations in which this is not feasible, an adult leader or staff member of the appropriate gender may find it necessary to serve as an escort.)

3. Most Council camps have shower and toilet facilities with separate compartments and locking doors. All campers and adult leaders should enter and exit the compartments dressed appropriately per youth protection guidelines. 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.

#### C. Camp Staff (youth and adult)

1. In anticipation of an increasing number of female campers and leaders, Last Frontier Council requires that the adult and youth camp staff include both genders, with a minimum of two of each gender. (*Within* the camp staff, assignments should be made on the basis of qualifications, not gender.)

2. All adult staff and youth staff must be current on Youth Protection Training, as shown by a card showing current Youth Protection Training or as shown by LFC or BSA National records. All youth and adult staff, regardless of age, must attend the "Understanding and Preventing Youth-on-Youth Abuse" training presented at a staff development meeting, or on another designated date, conducted by a Council-appointed trainer. Attendance at this training will be documented by the camp director. A review of this training may also be appropriate just prior to start of each camp session if new staff is added. In the event that an online youth-appropriate training becomes available, then the staff may use that resource also. But a face-to-face review during staff development is still strongly recommended for consistency of message and emphasis.

3. All staff, both youth and adult, 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.

4. All staff, youth and adults, must attend the Professional Conduct training during a planned staff development or on another designated date. The training will be presented by a Council-appointed trainer. Attendance at this training will be documented by the camp director.

5. All staff, youth and adult, will abide by a zero-tolerance policy. Any infractions should be communicated and enforced, just as with other potential problems such as drugs or alcohol. Adult staff, youth staff, and parents of youth staff will be required to sign a staff contract accepting the zero-tolerance policy, and the consequences of failure to comply, prior to camp start.

6. Staff should normally leave cell phones in their housing area. Cell phones are permitted in program areas only with the permission of the Camp Director, and only for purposes approved by the Camp Director. If a staff member is permitted by the Camp Director to have a cell phone in a program area, it should be kept out of sight except when in use for a purpose approved by the Camp Director. Other than in truly exceptional circumstances, cell phones should be used by staff only when no campers/leaders are present, and cell phone usage must not distract from staff responsibilities. If a staff member is found to be using a cell phone in a program area inappropriately or without the approval of the Camp Director, the device may, in the discretion of the Camp Director, be confiscated. If a cell phone is confiscated, the return of the device may be conditioned on deletion of inappropriate images, data or photographs.

7. Staff and youth staff parents may be asked to sign a photography waiver allowing camp staff and Last Frontier Council to use photographs of the staff for advertising and camp promotion through social media.

#### D. Camping/sleeping arrangements

1. Staff housing areas, both youth and adult, must have adequate separation of genders and age groups (under 18, 18-21, over 21) to satisfy BSA youth protection requirements. This includes bunkhouses, cabins, tents, and any other staff housing. Staff housing may be single or multiple occupancy.

2. Council camps enforce the buddy system for all youth staff, at all areas, and at all times, day or night. Buddies must be of the same gender. In other words, no mixed gender, one-on-one contact is permitted at any time. Consequently, mixed groups of youth staff will consist of at least four staff members (two males/two females) when reasonably possible.

3. Most Council camps have shower and toilet facilities with separate compartments and locking doors. All staff, both youth and adult, should enter and exit the compartments dressed appropriately per youth protection guidelines. 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.