

## VII. LFC Youth Protection Protocol – Order of the Arrow Camping Activities

### A. Basic camp protocols

1. All adults participating in an OA camping activity must (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 an OA camping activity, 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. If youth members of both genders will be participating in an OA camping activity, then, at the outset of the camping activity, 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 participating in the camping activity. 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.
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 OA members are encouraged to leave cell phones at home. At OA camping events, the Lodge Adviser or Chapter Adviser (or any adult leader designated by the Lodge Adviser or Chapter Adviser) will determine whether youth OA members will be permitted to have their cell phones with them during the camping event. Adults are encouraged to use their cell phones as seldom as possible so as not to distract from the camping experience.
6. If a youth or adult member is found to be misusing cell phone capabilities, such as photography, the device may, in the discretion of the Lodge Adviser or Chapter Adviser (or any adult leader designated by the Lodge Adviser or Chapter Adviser), 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. If youth members of both genders will be participating in camp, then registered adult leaders of both genders must be available (in camp and ready to go to the health lodge on short notice) to staff the health lodge. Regardless of the gender of any youth member needing the services of the health lodge, at least two registered adults must be present in the health lodge when a youth member is in the health lodge. Adult leaders – including those responsible for staffing the health lodge – should be alert to situations in which the nature of the health-related need of a youth member is such that it is advisable for an adult of the same gender to be present in the health lodge when the youth member is in the health lodge. It is expected that, in those situations, an adult member of the appropriate gender will be available on short notice to staff the health lodge.

8. Youth members 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. Ordeal

1. If Ordeal Clans have youth members of both genders participating in them, then in addition to youth serving as Elangomats there must be at least one adult Elangomat of each gender and the sleeping areas of male and female youth participating in Ordeal must be far enough apart that, in the judgment of the Lodge Adviser or Chapter Adviser (or any adult leader designated by the Lodge Adviser or Chapter Adviser), the likelihood of attempted inappropriate contact is clearly minimal, considering such factors as distance, physical barriers, visibility, and proximity of an adult sleeping area.

2. If Ordeal Clans are gender specific then youth members only may serve as Elangomats with males for the male youth members and females for the female youth members. Gender specific Clans and their Elangomats will spend their Ordeal night at separate locations within the camp property.

3. On the night of the Ordeal, an Elangomat must be designated to remain within easy earshot and a short walking distance from every Ordeal participant.

#### C. Camping/sleeping arrangements

1. All tents must house single gender youth or adults, unless (a) adults are married, or (b) campers are siblings of the same gender. If youth members of both genders are tenting in one campsite, the genders must be separated, with male youth members on one side, female youth members on the other side and at least two registered adults of each gender tenting between the male and female youth members. If not enough registered adult leaders are available to comply with this requirement in the campsite of any one OA chapter, then the normal practice of all members of a chapter camping in the same campsite may be relaxed.

2. 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.

3. The buddy system will be in effect for all youth members at OA camping events, 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 campers will under no circumstances be less in number than four (two males/two females).

4. 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 adults or youth of both genders are participating in the OA camping activity, and 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.

D. OA Staff (youth and adult)

1. All adult 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.

2. 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.

3. Staff should normally leave cell phones in their tents (or other housing), except as may be authorized by the Lodge Adviser or Chapter Adviser (or any adult leader designated by the Lodge Adviser or Chapter Adviser). If a staff member is permitted 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 Lodge Adviser or Chapter Adviser (or any adult leader designated by the Lodge Adviser or Chapter Adviser). If a staff member is found to be using a cell phone inappropriately or without the required approval, the device may, in the discretion of the Lodge Adviser or Chapter Adviser (or any adult leader designated by the Lodge Adviser or Chapter Adviser), be confiscated. If a cell phone is confiscated, the return of the device may be conditioned on deletion of inappropriate images, data or photographs.

4. 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.

