

Child Protection Issues

Guidelines for the Discipline of Children

I understand and accept the following:

- Volunteers may NOT, under any circumstances, hit a child
- Volunteers may not use abusive or derogatory language with campers, or within hearing vicinity of campers
- Volunteers need to ask for help if encountering a situation, they are unfamiliar or uncomfortable with
- Volunteers who encounter a particularly difficult child will seek the assistance of leadership
- In all dealings with campers, volunteers should strive to respond, as opposed to react to children

Guidelines for Camper-Volunteer Contact

I understand and accept that when touching campers, the following guidelines should be followed:

- On the hand, shoulder or upper back; front to front hugs or embraces are not allowed
- Never against a child's will (unless in the case of clear and present danger of the child)
- Never against a child's discomfort, whether expressed verbally or non-verbally in the company of other adults
- Never when it would have the effect of over-stimulating the child
- Never in a place on a child's body that is normally covered by a bathing suit, unless for clear medical necessity, and then only with supervision from another adult
- I understand and accept that I am a caretaker of children
- I understand that there is a clear power difference between myself and campers (money, mobility, authority, experience, knowledge, different set of rules)
- I understand that inappropriate sexual contact with or physical abuse of a camper can have severe emotional and psychological effects on that camper that can last a lifetime. These reactions can be so severe, they can require intensive professional intervention which can be disruptive to the victim's life as well as time consuming and expensive.

State Laws Concerning Child Abuse

I am aware of the following:

- Definition of a "mandated reporter"
- Purpose of child protection laws
- Clarification that a report is based on suspicion of abuse, not proven abuse
- Summary of the reporting procedures (time frame, reporting agency, information requested)
- Penalty for not reporting

Guidelines for all Volunteer's

I understand and accept the following:

- There is no “hazing” of campers by campers or volunteers
- Campers will not be subjected to “initiation” rites that are abusive in any manner
- There will be double coverage of campers by adults during clothing changing times
- Younger campers should be encouraged to change their own clothes, without assistance, as much as possible
- Campers will not be alone with a counselor in his or her quarters
- A volunteer will under no circumstances share a bed or sleeping bag with a camper
- Volunteers will set limits with children who “cling” or hang on them
- Volunteers will not give back rubs
- Tickling or teasing a camper to the point where that camper is out of control is unacceptable
- Pillow fights or wrestling matches and the like can become overstimulating in shortorder and need to be limited and carefully supervised
- Overnights need a minimum of 2 volunteers for supervision, the same gender as the campers
- Inappropriate behaviors, actions (either physically or verbally) between volunteers while at camp are grounds for immediate dismissal
- Romantic lives of volunteers cannot, under any circumstances be shared with campers
- Volunteers should stay out of cabins other than their own after lights out at night, unless onspecific camp business (i.e. night rounds)
- Male volunteers working with adolescent females need to be aware of the tendency for this group to develop hidden or secret romantic fantasies
- Whatever is done with campers should be done in broad daylight, with company

Other Instructions

I agree to the following:

- To watch for signs of stress in myself and others as a way of maintaining a safe environment at camp. IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL BREAK TIME, PLEASE REACH OUT TO YOUR CABIN LEAD.
- To help with other personnel who seem at risk for hurting or abusing campers
- To alert senior or supervisory personnel as far as the need for more careful supervision, intervention or support
- To seek help myself if I feel at risk for hurting, overstimulating or abusing a camper

By signing, I am attesting that I have read this MYDA Manual, I am also attesting that I have read over, understand and accept the rules, guidelines and standards of conduct outlined in this document.

Acknowledgement Form

I hereby acknowledge that I have read in full the volunteer guidelines. I fully understand that, as a volunteer, I have an obligation to fully adhere to the policies and principles of the practices at Montana Youth Diabetes Alliance.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

Please complete, sign and return to Camp Director