



Camp Merri-Mac Staff Manual

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I. Purpose and Goals

THE PURPOSE OF MERRI-MAC

Vision

Be the nation's gold standard for youth development

Mission

Experience the gospel through friends and adventure

Core Values

1. We love campers
We are made to be about others - Committed to putting them ahead of ourselves
 2. We develop staff
We are made for healthy leadership - Committed to continuous improvement
 3. We build community
We are made to live life together - Faithfulness is pursued together
 4. We care about details
We are made to make things beautiful - Committed to excellence in everything we do
 5. The Gospel is the agent of change
We are made for relentless optimism - Great programs are rooted in biblical contours
-

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A COUNSELOR

Camp counseling is not an easy job; it is not a summer vacation. Your responsibility toward your campers continues twenty-four hours a day with the exception of your scheduled time off. Your exercise of these responsibilities will have an immediate effect on the safety and happiness of your campers, and it will also affect their growth and attitudes for the rest of their lives.

Through Merri-Mac's many years of operation, our program has fostered faith and given direction to thousands of campers. Many former campers have told the directors of lessons learned at Merri-Mac that guide them in their mature lives. This growth did not come from Merri-Mac per se; it comes from all of the staff members who have been here before you, all of the counselors who have dedicated their summers to helping our girls grow.

Continuing this program and spirit that has been built by these former staff members is your role.

If in doubt, please tell the directors about anything that does not feel quite right. The directors need to have the most complete picture of everything and your input is an important part of that.

BENEFITS FROM CAMPING

These benefits are beautifully expressed in the following excerpt from a letter that we received from a parent after the 1986 camping season. These words feel even more true today.

The Merri-Mac experience affords our daughter the opportunity to be herself and explore her own identity, talents, abilities, limitations, and to experience these without the eyes of her mother, father, brother, sister or schoolmates watching her. She is freer to express herself, freer to succeed, more free to fail. It teaches her to cope. It teaches her independence. It teaches her cooperation. It broadens her ability to establish role models by her association with older campers and staff. In short, I believe that Merri-Mac may well be the most positive and ultimately educational experience in our daughter's life.

-Merri-Mac Parent

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MERRI-MAC AND TIMBERLAKE

Merri-Mac was founded by Mrs. Alice McBride Coburn (“Macky”) in 1945 and was named by her first Program Director, Dr. Mike Buie. Macky’s husband built most of the buildings, with the exception of the Big House, during the early 1950’s.

Macky was fond of saying that she founded Merri-Mac "for the Lord and for Southern Girls." This Christian faith is still the strength of Merri-Mac. Because of our modern transit system, Merri-Mac is no longer confined to camper recruitment in the South.

In 1960 George Pickering bought Merri-Mac and through several outstanding directors preserved the Christian atmosphere and traditions that Macky had started.

In October of 1977 the Boyd family purchased the camp from the Pickerings and have continued working to develop the property and program. In addition to this their vision has included offering excellence in instruction.

In 1983 Camp Timberlake for Boys started as a 10 day post-camp, operating after the Merri-Mac girls had left. In 1986 Timberlake grew into a 4-week program that operated concurrently with Merri-Mac's first session. From there it moved to 6 and then 8 weeks of operation, with each session having about 30 campers. Finally, in 1992 Timberlake gained a full time director and began to expand its program to its current format and in 2018 Timberlake was moved to its current location in Marion.

Most recently, Will and Mary Page (Boyd) Troxler purchased Merri-Mac in 2023. Mary Page (daughter of Ann and Adam) grew up spending each summer at Merri-Mac through her counselor years, and Will worked at a summer camp on the NC coast in college. They met at UNC-Chapel Hill and lived in Durham, NC for the first several years of their marriage before feeling specifically called to Black Mountain and Merri-Mac.

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

Cabin counselors must be women of outstanding character who have obtained a high degree of excellence in the activity that they will be teaching. They must affirm the essentials of the Christian faith as described in the [EPC Essentials](#) (please note that Merri-Mac is a non-denominational camp, but we find this document to be a helpful summary of essential beliefs). Additionally, all cabin counselors should affirm the following:

As followers of Jesus Christ and recipients of his grace, we live out our faith on a daily basis, both during camp and throughout the year. As broken people, we acknowledge that we do this imperfectly. As a community that values growing in maturity we commit to that which will produce godly growth and reject that which will cause us and others harm. In light of this, we commit to the following:

- Show evidence of the Holy Spirit who lives within all believers, such as “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control;”
- Seek righteousness, mercy, and justice;
- Love and side with what is good in God’s eyes, and abhor what is evil in God’s eyes;
- Uphold the God-given worth of every human being, from conception to death, as unique image-bearers of God;
- Pursue unity and embrace ethnic and racial diversity as part of God’s design for humanity and practice reconciliation as one of his redemptive purposes in Christ;
- Affirm chastity among the unmarried;
- Be people of integrity whose word can be fully trusted;
- Give faithful witness to the Gospel and live lives of prayer and thanksgiving.

By contrast, even though God forgives people through his grace, we acknowledge that the Bible condemns certain behaviors, and we commit to avoid the following:

- Pride, immodesty, slander, gossip, vulgar language, blasphemy, greed, covetousness, theft;
- Self-righteousness and legalism;
- Sinful attitudes and behaviors, such as impurity and debauchery; hatred, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, envy, drunkenness or underaged drinking;
- Sexual immorality, including the use of pornography

A Merri-Mac counselor must also have a loving heart and possess a cheerful and winsome personality. She must have a keen sense of humor and be able to relate in a "give and take" situation with children of camp age, and also with adults. As an activity specialist she should be a good advocate for her sport. As a committed Christian she must demonstrate a sincerity and depth of commitment. These ideas are best summarized in our three general staff qualifications:

1. Love Christ
2. Love kids
3. Love your activity

Counselors-In-Training will ordinarily be rising High School seniors and are not required to provide a Christian testimony. Junior Counselors will have graduated High School and demonstrate a credible profession of faith. Counselors will ordinarily be at least eighteen years old by the start of the season, have

completed one year of college and be prepared to serve in a ministry leadership position.

LOYALTY

During your stay with us you will probably see things that you feel could be improved upon. Please talk with your Cabin Area Director, Program Director, or Camp Directors concerning these things. Complaining to campers or fellow staff members is not helpful or allowed. It simply hurts the camp.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Camp's system of operating as a team of Directors has a strong advantage in that emergency decisions can be made more quickly by whichever director is closest at hand. For general operation, however, each director has specific areas of responsibility as shown on the following organizational chart. The lanes of administration shown on the chart may change on occasion. Please take this chart with a grain of salt – or several – as it overemphasizes hierarchy as opposed to the teamwork involved in camp. We are a camp family and not a rigid business organization. Any of the directors are available to talk and share with you at any time.

A high-level organizational structure can look like this:

Cabin Life:

Director Team

- Cabin Area Directors
 - Counselors
 - Junior Counselors
- You should consult your leaders for help in problem solving difficult cabin situations such as:
 - Homesickness
 - Social dynamics in the cabin
 - Camper discipline
 - “Gut checks,” second opinions, etc.

Activities and Programs:

- Director Team
 - Program Director
 - Activity Head
 - Activity Counselor
- Similar to Cabin Life structure, consult with the next organization level to help problem solve challenges in activity areas such as:
 - Equipment challenges
 - Programming issues
 - Lack of camper or counselor participation

TELL ME ABOUT IT! (reporting camper/counselor concerns)

Part of your job is to tell the camp director about anything that compromises the fun, growth, and

well-being of a camper or another counselor or any behaviors that campers are exhibiting which suggest they are having difficulty adjusting to camp life.

Tell your Cabin Area Director or the camp director about any camper or adult who is:

- Struggling with homesickness
- Isolating herself from the rest of the cabin, tribe, etc.
- Struggling to form friendships with other campers
- Eating very little or refusing to eat
- Bullying another camper physically or emotionally
- Using profane or graphic language
- Having difficulty sleeping (trouble falling asleep, nightmares, bedwetting, etc.)
- Refusing to adhere to camp rules (consistently late, neglecting assigned chores, etc.)
- Threatening to run away or to harm herself
- Displaying inappropriate behaviors
- Discussing sexual matters with the cabin or friends
- Who you feel is stressed or who you think could use some support or relief
- Who you feel is not taking care of herself
- Whose behavior with another is inappropriate, including
 - Using profane or graphic language
 - Initiating or encouraging inappropriate contact
 - Encouraging others to behave inappropriately
 - Making another uncomfortable

II. Daily Schedule and Program

DAILY SCHEDULE

7:00	Reveille / Cabin Clean Up
8:00	Breakfast
9:00	Chapel
9:15	Staff Meeting
10:00	1st Period
11:00	2nd Period
12:30	Lunch
1:30	Rest Time
2:15	Trading Post / Free Swim
3:30	3rd Period
4:30	4th Period
6:00	Supper
7:00	Evening Activity
8:30	Tattoo
9:00	Jr. Taps
9:30	Bear Camp Taps

CHAPEL

Chapel services are held every morning. The camp director will schedule staff and/or cabins to conduct the program each day and when asked will help in preparing the program. Staff members should be dispersed among the campers.

Chapels should be uniquely Christian in nature and the Bible should be central in your message. Teaching God's word is both a weighty responsibility and a wonderful opportunity, and we want to help the counselors develop their gifts in this area.

REST TIME

"Rest Time" is observed each day after lunch. This is an important time and should be truly a *rest* time. However, campers will not rest without counselor supervision. All campers must be on their beds and absolutely quiet for the full time. There is a longer rest period on Sunday and the same rules apply. The secret to a successful rest time, as well as a successful taps, is the teacher's maxim: "never let them see you smile until Christmas." This means that you should begin each session being very strict about this. Later you may choose to relax a little, but unless you get this under control early you will never have a chance.

Our favorite method for putting campers to bed was devised by a Timberlake counselor several years ago. He would begin with a countdown to taps, so that every camper was in bed by the time it blew. He would then put a chair in the middle of the floor and have his personal prayer time. While none of the campers knew that this was what he was doing, he could use this time to silently pray for them and also keep them silent until they fell asleep.

FREE PERIODS

Because of our free periods, we are able to provide a camper who wants to specialize in an activity with two extra hours of instruction per day in addition to her normally scheduled three hours per week. You may want to limit the number of campers who can participate in your activity during free time and reserve one of these hours for campers who may be on a competitive level. This is a wonderful time to have campers test for bars.

Activity heads should try to schedule other staff in their activities during free periods to allow themselves and their assistants one free hour per day.

For most of our campers this is an unstructured time to spend with their friends and counselors. Like rest time, your presence is crucial here. Your campers do not just want to be taught and cared for by you - they also want to play with you!

EVENING DEVOTIONS

Cabin devotions are held each night and are led by the counselors. These are biblically based and classically Christian in content. For the younger cabins, this may mean simply telling a Bible story (we love the Jesus Storybook Bible). The older cabins may go through a book recommended by the director. However, in all

other cases, devotions should be based around the content of the morning chapel.

Many of our campers are not from Christian homes. You should always avoid putting a camper on the spot by asking what their favorite Bible verse is, asking about their faith, etc. Devotions should be simple and brief.

Please contact a director if you do not feel comfortable leading devotions. Also please note that *the Director must approve all materials used in devotions.*

TRIBES AND POINT SYSTEM

There are three tribes at Merri-Mac: Red Wolves, Black Bear and Golden Eagle and these are the foundation of our camp spirit. The tribes are organized and run by the campers themselves and are very important to each girl. Leaders are elected at the beginning of each session to help organize each group's activities and competitions. Campers compete individually and as teams to accumulate points throughout the session (listed below). By keeping personal points every day, each camper makes a contribution to the accumulation of points. At the end of each session the tribe with the most points is awarded the banner - the ultimate victory and bragging rights.

The tribe system exists for the purpose of teaching individual responsibility, personal health, respect for others, honesty and good sportsmanship.

Personal Points

One point for each of the following:

1. Taps.....Complete quiet; everyone in bed.
2. Reveille.....No talking before the bugle.
3. Rest Time.....No talking, whispering, radios, sign language, passing notes. Reading and writing are permitted. Make it a restful period; it is needed.
4. Cleanliness.....Brush teeth twice a day (morning and night)
5. Cleanliness.....Take a shower every day.
6. Inspection.....Everything spic 'n span (individual chore and personal area. It will be marked on the inspection sheet or a note left on the bed.)
7. Activities.....Attend all activities and be on time.
8. On time.....Be at every meal, chapel, classes, rest hour, etc. on time.
9. Water.....Drink a glass of water with each meal.
10. Bonus Point!

Counselors turn in a list of their cabin points every week on a designated day to the Program Director. You should keep them daily and total them up at the end of the week.

Perfect day:	10 pts.
Perfect week:	100 pts. (Bonus of 30)
Perfect Session:	4 weeks 500 pts. (Bonus of 100 pts.) 2 weeks 250 pts. (Bonus of 50 pts.)

Tournament points and all other point system categories are tracked by the program directors. The final

results of tribal points will be kept secret until Closing Ceremonies. No points are given for accomplishments in activity areas since this could lead to peer pressure within the tribe.

WHITE FEATHER

Once a week we meet together for our camp Council. Merri-Mac's White Feather program is designed for the staff to recognize campers who demonstrate remarkable growth and investment in camp. We also recognize growth in activities, adventure and character. Later that night, after the Council and evening activity, the staff will visit each camper in their cabin and describe the unique gifts and abilities that they have recognized God developing in them.

PROGRAM

Most of our girls come to camp to make friends and to have fun. There is no other educational institution where this is true. They do not attend church or school to have fun. They don't go to afternoon classes and practices with this expectation. Camp must be fun and this largely depends on you. We will talk at length during training week about how you can do this.

STORMY WEATHER PROGRAM

During inclement weather we try to continue the fun and instruction in our activities as much as possible. You should have a lesson plan for rainy days. Most of the time, we stay the course for our regularly scheduled activity periods and locations. Many of our favorite camp memories are rainy days!

In the instance that Thor Guard (predictive lightning system) goes off, you should abide by the following:

These activities **will move** from their regular spots to the following locations:

Basketball/Pickleball	Tucker Inn
Climbing	The Mike
Tennis	Tennis Shelter
Trail Running	Little Dipper Porch
Lawn Games	Macky's Pavillion
Volleyball	Tweedle Porch
Diving	The Chapel
Soccer	The Mark - fire pit side
Swimming	The Chapel
Kayaking	The Chapel
Canoeing	The Chapel
Jr. Lifeguarding	The Chapel

If **Thor Guard** goes off, pause activity but remain in area with alternative programming:

Archery	Archery Range
Riding	The Barn
Riflery	Riflery Range
Tennis	Tennis Shelter
Mountain Biking	The Shed

DETAILS

The Carolina Mountains are subject to long periods of rain, but this is an opportunity for our value ‘we care about details’ to shine. Campers need help keeping feet dry; lines need to be cleared and dried; classes MUST meet in rainy day locations. Remember, do not dismiss campers to their next class if Thor Guard has gone off, and make sure they are wearing rain gear. These are the details that take an average camp experience and make it exceptional.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Camping involves outdoor living in a natural environment. It is quite difficult to maintain a natural setting in a living area with 400 campers and staff. Through your efforts, and in cooperation with the maintenance staff, we provide our campers with a beautifully natural setting.

The camp buildings have been located to have minimal impact on the wilderness setting. Their color of Merri-Mac Green (yes, our special mix) helps them blend into the woodsy atmosphere. The maintenance personnel provide continuing year-round work to prevent erosion and permit the foliage to grow in a natural manner.

To protect this quality we need your help in the following areas:

1. Encourage your campers to dispose of all litter in trash and recycling cans. This is especially important around the Trading Post area. All opening/closing day meals should be thrown away in dining hall trash cans.
2. When you see litter on the ground, pick it up. It is not an accident that you saw it.
3. Keep your activity areas neat, free from litter and lost and found articles (especially the Waterfront and Archery and Riflery Ranges). **This is very important!**
4. Immediately after an evening activity to which you are assigned, thoroughly clean up the area.
5. Prevent campers from causing erosion by walking on banks or destroying vegetation.

Neat grounds, activity areas and cabins help campers develop pride in their camp. This creates a greater feeling of confidence and enhances their performance in the activities.

WATERFRONT PROCEDURES

The waterfront can be a fun place to enjoy, and because it is so appealing to play near, staff should pay extra attention when around it. Most emergencies and/or drownings happen to people who don't expect to even get wet. The following rules must be observed:

A. Eligibility:

The following eligibility requirements apply to all campers and staff.

1. We recognize three levels of swimming ability. (all campers wear PFDs at all times with the exception of swim class)
 - a. Those not eligible to participate in free swims. Can only participate in swim class.
 - b. Those who can participate in free swim but can only enter the deep end with prior permission of the director.
 - c. Those that can participate in all aquatic activities and areas.
2. Levels are determined by the swim test.

Buddy tags are colored to indicate each participant's swimming ability.

B. Ratios:

1. Maximum number swimming: 60 campers
2. Maximum number boating: 40 campers
3. The general rule is there will be at least two staff members at all times, one of whom will be a watcher and one a certified guard.
 - a. A minimum of 2 staff per 24 people - 1 must be certified.
 - b. A minimum of 4 staff per 25 - 40 people - 2 must be certified.
 - c. A minimum of 6 staff per 40 - 60 people - 3 must be certified.

C. Protective Equipment:

1. Each active lifeguard must have ready access to a hip pack and be standing with a rescue tube.
2. A backboard will be readily accessible
3. Any other equipment may be used at the direction of the Waterfront Director, providing the staff has been trained in its use.

D. Safety Regulations:

Getting on the Waterfront

1. The appropriate entrance and exit to the swimming and boating area is by the Boat House.
2. A staff member will check in each camper at the Boat House by the buddy board. No one shall enter without checking in. The guard will ensure that each camper is marked on the buddy board and a swim tag indicating the camper's swim level will be issued accordingly.
3. Enter the waterfront area or canoe dock when the head guard gives permission. A lifeguard will be present at all times the waterfront is open. This includes staff free swims.
4. All participants involved in an aquatic activity are informed of the waterfront procedures and safety regulations on their first class meeting and first free swim.
5. PFDs are worn by everyone, including staff, except during instructional swim classes.

Getting off the Waterfront

1. Leave only by the Boat House exit, by passing the buddy board.
2. In order to leave, all waterfront participants must check out with the staff member at the Boat House, by the buddy board. No one shall leave without checking out and returning their PFD.

Buddy Tag/PFD system

1. Every camper will have a Buddy Tag with their name and cabin, whose color corresponds to their swimming level.
2. In order to check on the the dock anytime (with the exception of swim class which uses tag but not the PFD), a camper must present their tag and PFD to staff member who will:
 - a. Ensure the PFD fits and is being worn properly
 - b. Place the buddy tag on the board
3. At any given time, the buddy board will show how many and which campers are in the water.
4. Leave only by the Boat House exit, by passing the buddy board.
5. In order to leave, all waterfront participants must check out with the staff member at the Boat House, by the buddy board. The staff member will move their Buddy Tag from "in" to "out" to indicate that the camper is no longer in the water. No one shall leave without checking out and returning their PFD.

Activities on the Waterfront

1. No running, rough-housing, or pushing on the docks.
2. Do not talk to the guards except for necessary information.
3. Lifeguards must be standing at all times.
4. No camper or staff will be on the blob or the blob platform without the supervision of a lifeguard and will follow blobbing procedures at all times.
5. No camper or staff will use the waterslide or the waterslide platform without the supervision of a lifeguard and will follow slide procedures at all times.
6. Everyone will be tested at the waterfront to determine swimming ability.
7. After being tested, the person will be told which activities they may participate in, which areas of the lake they may use and if there is any special equipment they may use.
8. If you see campers by themselves near the lake, invite them to another location.
9. There is no diving into shallow water (6 feet or less). The only diving from any dock shall be under the supervision of the waterfront staff.
10. Swimmers dive off of the front of the board only. One bounce and one person on the board at a time.
11. Swim only within the dock boundaries unless permission has been given to go to swim elsewhere.

Canoeing and Kayaking

1. Canoes and kayaks are used only with the permission of the waterfront staff.
2. On the first day of canoeing/kayaking class, participants are informed and instructed on safety rules and regulations, proper boarding and disembarking, trimming and movement of the canoe, the use of lifejackets and self rescue in the event of capsizing or swamping.
3. No capsizing without permission.
4. Before each day's first use the canoeing/kayaking staff will examine the canoes, paddles, skirts, and PFDs. If repairs or replacements are needed, the proper person will be notified.

Lifeguards, Waterfront Staff and Lookouts

1. All lifeguards/lookouts will be attentive to the areas they are positioned to watch, and located in positions from which they can continuously observe and readily assist participants.
2. All lifeguards/lookouts will remain standing while on duty, at the edge of the dock.
3. A whistle signals all on the waterfront to become silent and to listen for instructions from the guard.
4. Uncertified swimming instructors will be under the direct on-site supervision of a guard.
5. Waterfront equipment will be checked daily by the waterfront director, or his/her assistant, and properly maintained.
6. During any waterfront use, including staff use, at least one lookout will remain out of the water at all times and be positioned to observe all swimmers.
7. Lifeguards and lookouts will be trained to maintain their supervisory roles, serving as guards and lookouts at aquatic sites away from camp.

E. Emergency Action Plan:

Instructions for responding to an injured swimmer

1. The lifeguard closest to the accident or first to witness the accident blows the whistle three times and takes appropriate action to become the primary rescuer.
2. Second closest lifeguard assists the primary rescuer and becomes a secondary rescuer. If a secondary rescuer is the only other rescuer she will first direct other swimmers to the beach and radio

appropriate messages to the front office for a nurse or additional help if needed.

3. Other guards/watchers present will be in charge of clearing the waterfront of swimmers and directing them to the beach area. He/she will also radio appropriate messages to the front office for a nurse or additional help if needed.

Whistle Blows

1. 1 whistle blow: Attention; be quiet for further instruction
2. 1 long whistle blow: Buddy-check; quiet for counting of buddy pairs
3. 3 whistle blows: Emergency; all swimmers evacuate swimming area to beach

Missing Camper/Lake Search

The lifeguard in charge, usually the waterfront director, begins the deep-water search.

1. Begin the search in the area of the lake that the camper was last seen. If the area is not known, then begin in area #1 of the chart posted inside the Boat House.
2. Once staff begins to arrive, have non-lifeguards begin the walking procedure through the shallow area, labeled #1. Appoint a captain to help the group stay together.
3. Have two teams of lifeguards walk/swim through the area #2 and #3. A captain (the senior most guard or waterfront director) located on the swim dock will help these groups stay together. He/She will also send relief staff when the guards become tired.
4. Another group of lifeguards will search area #4, with a captain helping the group from the canoe dock.

F. Equipment Maintenance:

1. The Waterfront Director will inventory and inspect all equipment at the beginning of the season.
2. The Waterfront Director, or designated person, will also inspect all safety equipment to see that it is in place at the beginning of each day.
3. If something is broken or missing, a report will be given to the camp director immediately. If there is not a replacement immediately available, or if the loss does not allow proper ratios, then waterfront activities will be reduced to the point that all safety requirements are met.

G. Safety Concerns Related to Area:

1. Swimming under the docks is not allowed.
2. Pushing off of docks and fire dock will not be allowed without permission.
3. Campers may not try to catch frogs when there is no lifeguard present; all staff must address this.
4. Rocks may not be thrown.
5. Campers and staff may not "dunk" campers.
6. Staff must obey all waterfront rules, including wearing PFDs when required.
7. The Blob and Waterslide should only be used when trained staff are present.

III. Cabin Life

CABINS

Merri-Mac is divided into three camp divisions. Each of these is supervised by a Cabin Area Director, whose primary job is to help cabin counselors succeed. These three divisions and their general age classifications are:

1. Junior Camp (Tweedles) - First through third grades

- Cabins: Tweedle Dee, Tweedle Doe, Tweedle Dum, Tweedle Dot
2. Intermediate Camp (Bear Camp) - Fourth through sixth grades
Cabins: Jiggity Jig, Jiggity Jog, Happy Hollow, Cross Patch, Up Yonder, The Robin, Lavender's Blue
 3. Senior Hill - Seventh through eleventh grades
Cabins: Stardust, Milky Way, Comet, Blue Heaven, Little Dipper, Big Dipper, Moonmist, Rainbow, Dreams Begin, Dreams End, Sunnyside, Sundrop, Cloud Nine, Sunspot

The most important part of your job is done in the cabins; this is where relationships are built. If you are not sure how to handle a situation you should go to your Cabin Area Director. They are chosen because of their broad experience and ability to creatively solve problems.

Ordinarily, cabins will have at least one staff member present during scheduled cabin times.

HOMESICKNESS

Homesickness is, in a way, a part of growing up, as a girl reaches toward maturity and leaves the age of total dependence on her parents. Like some other parts of growing it can be challenging, but it is still important.

The best remedy for homesickness is *positive activity*. Encourage all of your campers to participate fully in their activities. You should also make sure a homesick girl is never alone. Respect her right to be homesick; it really does hurt. Never say, "You shouldn't feel that way." Rather, say things like "Wow, it sounds like you really love your family. That is awesome. They will be so happy to hear about your archery class." When you say that, you are not denying the importance of her feelings. Be loving but firm with a homesick camper. Keep her busy, and, if she does not improve, consult your Cabin Area Director. Campers are always welcome to be homesick, but should never be disobedient or disrespectful.

DIFFICULT CAMPERS

As soon as you feel that a camper has a problem that is keeping her from connecting with friends, you should discuss it with your Cabin Area Director. There are times when the directors are not made aware of potential camper problems until after the problem has reached a scale that can no longer be managed easily. This shortens the already brief time that we can be helpful.

You should also understand that every camper has earned a reputation at her school. Camp is a chance for many to have a fresh start. That is often scary, but it is also an amazing opportunity for change. If a camper gets off on the wrong foot, have a talk with them and give them a second chance. However, you should also notify your Cabin Area Director - Pro Tip: TELL EVERYTHING TO YOUR CABIN AREA DIRECTOR.

Finally, *the key to camper discipline is a personal relationship*. If you are having trouble with a camper you should IMMEDIATELY spend quality time with them. This will allow two things. First they will grow to respect you, and even more importantly, you will grow to love them.

CAMPER DISCIPLINE

Discipline is one of the most important elements of camper development. If it is handled poorly, discipline can become dangerous and self-defeating.

Two of the most important steps in discipline are:

1. Be very clear about expectations during your first cabin talk.
2. Build close relationships with your campers. It is more difficult to disobey a counselor you love and respect.

No counselor will subject any camper to physical discipline of any sort. This includes spankings, push-ups, standing in uncomfortable positions, etc., and no counselor will subject any camper to humiliation. Avoid any “wild west” style of disciplining children where one child leaves feeling slighted. This includes almost any situation where you are tempted to say, “Okay, now you’re even.”

If a camper is knowingly disobedient, the counselor should talk to their Cabin Area Director on how to best discipline. You should avoid using punishment (withholding trading post, dessert, etc.) unless first discussed with a Cabin Area Director. It is very important that a counselor take the least severe available action to punish a camper. Whenever a camper is spoken to about discipline there should be at least two counselors present and a note made on their cabin card.

If more severe action is needed, the counselor should consult the Cabin Area Director. Remember, you are their counselor, not their parent. Your job is to create a safe, happy environment, not to bring discipline. If things are out of order, it is your responsibility to inform your Camp Director or Cabin Area Director of every step taken.

Lastly, remember that used only when needed, the word “no” is not discipline. Rather, it is a helpful and healthy boundary setting tool. As a counselor, you are an authority figure in the cabin - this does not mean that you constantly dictate rules, but you do create boundaries that lead to healthy relationships in cabins.

MAIL AND CARE PACKAGES

While campers cannot communicate electronically with their families, parents can send emails to their campers. Counselors can typically retrieve these for their cabins before dinner.

Staff may receive packages but not food. Campers may not receive packages at all (a birthday package is the only exception here). *Absolutely no food* is allowed in the cabin at any time. Food attracts mice; mice attract long legless creatures that are the natural predators of mice – and yes, Boo Boo (the camp bear) loves eating everything. Food and candy purchased at the Trading Post should be eaten in the Trading Post area. Additionally, leftover cardboard from packages is not allowed in cabins as the glue in these boxes attracts everyone’s favorite pest...cockroaches.

STAFF LETTERS TO CAMPERS AND PARENTS

At least two cabin counselors should write a note to each camper in their cabin that will be included in the camper packet when they leave. Be positive again and write something personal. Campers keep these for years, and their parents show them off when we visit their homes.

CAMPER LETTERS HOME

Campers should be encouraged to write home at least once a week. Please make a note to encourage this during rest time. Please also offer to help younger campers who may struggle to write, particularly with addresses.

CABIN INSPECTION

Cabins will be inspected every day. Assign a camper to each necessary task and rotate these duties every day. Put a weekly Chore Chart up in the cabin as a reminder. *Counselors and C.I.T.s will be responsible for keeping their own area in good order* and should supervise the cabin clean up. Counselors are ultimately responsible for the cleanliness of the cabins. This is an opportunity to make friends and a team of your campers.

If a cabin needs additional attention, there will be a note on a counselor's bed to this effect. If the inspector leaves a note for a camper, they lose a personal or cabin point (tribe point) for the day. A thoroughly clean cabin in perfect order will receive a 10. We hope that these daily cabin inspections will encourage the girls to take pride in their cabins and their camp, but that requires the example to be set by you, the counselor.

Inspection will be every day and any time after 8:15. Weekly cabin division winners will receive a cabin cake. If you are excited about the competition your campers will love cleaning.

TUCKER INN MUSTS

Meals at camp are a symphony, and like every good symphony, conductors are necessary! At camp, the counselors hold the baton. You should not underestimate the importance of meals at camp. Children identify meals with their families, but veteran campers identify camp meals in Tucker Inn with their friends, so mealtimes can foster homesickness *or* friendship. The difference is a comfortable order that only the counselor can make happen. Here is how we make that order.

Campers may come into the dining room after the second bell, but they should remain at their tables during this time. As counselors enter they should bring their table's food from the serving window to their table. When all of the campers arrive the counselors should spray their hands after which the directors will lead the blessing and the meal will begin.

At the end of the meal things get serious. After the campers have eaten and stacked plates, uneaten food and trash, on their brown tray, they wipe their tables before adding their rags to the tray as well. Rookie Mistake #1: wiping your table before the counselor serves dessert. A counselor will then take the tray full of dishes up to the pass-thru window, where CITs will be waiting to take your dirty dishes.

A few important things: 1. Let a Cabin Area Director know if a child is not eating well. 2. Food and tableware are not allowed out of Tucker Inn. 3. Know your campers' dietary restrictions and then be sure to check the allergy board on your way in. We want to encourage campers to do this for themselves but remember you are ultimately responsible for knowing what they can and cannot eat. 4. If you let your campers know you love the food they will love the food, and if they do not love the food they will not love camp. 5. You want your campers to laugh and have fun conversations (which requires your participation and leadership!), but they should not scream during meals.

LAUNDRY

Camper laundry is done by cabin, once a week, on designated days. Staff may use the staff laundry facility as available, or a local laundromat. We are not able to be responsible for lost or damaged items. Everyone

should help keep the laundry area clean.

SICKNESS

There are four designated “sick calls” a day. This is in our infirmary and it is staffed by four health care providers (who are available 24/7 for emergencies). Remember that they are the experts about camp health, and you are the expert about your camper, so together you make up a care team. Work with the health care providers on property to provide your camper with the best care possible, and keep a director informed if you have any concerns.

IV. Safety and EAPs (Emergency Action Plans)

SAFETY IN CAMP

Most of you have attained a relatively high level of performance in the activities that you will be teaching. Through the years you have seen accidents happen and probably suffered a few yourself. Because of this you know how quickly and unexpectedly they can occur. As a result we need you to:

- Always be where you are supposed to be, and stay alert.
- Insist that your campers follow all safety procedures and **follow them yourself**.
- Check all equipment, not only before each day's use, but also before use in each class. Help your campers develop this habit also.
- Where safety equipment is provided, use them at all times.
- Be sure that a camper is proficient at a basic skill before allowing them to progress
- Anticipate accidents. Often an alert instructor can see the potential for an accident developing. When you see this or even sense this, **have the courage to stop**.
- Notify the director immediately of any safety hazard that you may see developing in your activity or cabin. If this involves equipment, do not use it until it is repaired.

Our *most prolific times for accidents* have not been in the participation of controlled risk activities but during *free times* and some evening activities where the campers are not under the direct instructional control of the staff. During these times, you can be easily tempted to rationalize that the rest of the staff is watching, so you can relax for a while. It is your job to be with your campers during these times and to stay alert.

CAMP-WIDE EMERGENCY MODES

In the event of a camp-wide emergency one of the following commands may be issued over the P.A.

1. **Shelter in Place**

This will be appropriate in instances when it would be unsafe to move to a safer location, such as an imminent thunderstorm.

- Campers and staff will seek the nearest safe shelter.
- The oldest staff member in each shelter are in charge of their locations - this includes counting the number of campers in your area and ensuring that no one leaves until it is safe to do so.

- Injuries are to be reported to the hostess as soon as safe to do so using the closest Walkie Talkie or by sending a staff member to the office.
 - Remain in the safe shelter until the hostess announces all clear.
2. **Return to Cabins**
This will be appropriate when we need to account for all campers.
- Campers and staff will return to their cabins where they will be counted.
 - Cabin staff report to their Cabin Area Director, who reports to the hostess.
 - Remain in the cabin until the hostess announces all clear.
3. **Hide and Cover**
This will be appropriate when there is an imminent threat to campers in the open, such as an active shooter on property.
- Campers and staff remain hidden.
 - The Hostess calls 911 immediately.

FIRST AID

In case of an in-camp injury you should perform only the first aid that is immediately necessary and send for one of the Camp Nurses or designated First Aid Person. Never assume that an injury is not serious, especially a head injury. Making this type of a decision is the responsibility of our Camp Nurse. Finally, it is important to realize that in-camp time does not constitute a wilderness context and so does not allow for WFA's or WFR's to exercise wilderness protocols.

First aid supplies are located in the following areas:

1. The Wishing Well
2. The Camp Craft Hut
3. The Mike
4. The Boat House
6. The Mark
7. All camp vehicles
8. Each cabin

ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORT FORMS

Accidents, beyond minor cuts and bruises and childhood scrapes, require that an incident report form be completed and filed with the Directors. Other incidents, including close calls, should also be reported on this form. Even though such an accident may not be serious, analyzing these forms can help alert the directors to areas of needed improvement.

VERIFICATION OF CAMPERS' PRESENCE

You should check for absentees during the following times:

1. At the start of each day
2. At each meal
3. At the beginning of each activity period
4. At the beginning of each rest hour
5. At the beginning of each evening activity (as able)

6. At tattoo each night
7. At taps each night

You should notify the office if a camper is missing. The Hostess will announce for the camper to report to the assigned activity area. If she remains missing a "missing camper procedure" may be initiated **when the director deems appropriate.**

On Opening Day, parents and other people you do not know will be in camp. It is mandatory once a camper is checked into your cabin that you know where they are until dinner and evening activity. At this time all campers should be in camp and all non-camp people should be off the property. Regular procedures will go into effect at this time.

On Closing Day, parents and other people again will be in camp. Traffic increases and is hard to control. It is extremely important to keep up with your campers until approved transportation takes them home. If you are not sure, ask one of the directors.

MISSING CAMPER PROCEDURE

Upon determining that a camper is missing, the following procedure will be implemented:

1. An announcement will be made on the P.A. system that a missing camper check is underway, giving the name of the camper. All campers will return to their cabins, sit on their own beds, and the youngest cabin counselor will make a bed check. This counselor will report the result of the cabin check to their cabin area director, who will send this information to the office. Should the cabin area director not be in camp, the senior-most counselor available in Tweedle Dot, The Robin and Sunnyside will act as the camp division coordinator.
2. All lifeguards will report to the waterfront without taking time to change into bathing suits and perform the standard waterfront search and rescue procedure.
3. The most tenured available camp nurse will report to the Wishing Well and await instructions.
4. The remaining members of the staff will report to the front fence along Montreat Road and will conduct a search of the property including the Big House and activity buildings.
5. If, after one hour from the time the search is begun the missing camper is not found, the directors will decide whether to call the camper's parents to inform them of the situation and to apprise them of what is being done. When the director deems it appropriate, the camp hostess will call 911, make a missing person report.

MASS INJURY PROCEDURES

Should an emergency situation involving mass injury occur, the following procedure will be implemented:

Campers and staff who are not injured should go to their cabins for a bed check and should remain there until notified by the hostess over the P.A. system.

There will be three aid stations set up in camp as follows:

- Station #1 - Dining Hall (If this is unsafe, the Back Green)
The Junior Camp Cabin Area Director will be in charge of this area
- Station #2 - The Mike (If this is unsafe, the road behind The Mike)
Intermediate Camp Cabin Area Director will be in charge of this area.
- Station #3 - Lodge with overflow into Rainbow (If this is unsafe, the Archery Range)

Lower Senior Hill Cabin Area Director will be in charge of this area.

- Only people who have an injury need to come to the aid station. If a victim cannot be moved, keep him or her still, calm and treat for shock. Inform the Hostess Office of this person via radio or by sending someone to the office.
- By direction of the Cabin Area Director, any injured person who can walk to Station #1 should do so.
- The most urgent victims will be transported to the hospital by way of camp vehicles or ambulance. If more transportation is needed, staff cars will be used.
- The Hostess should ensure that all camp gates are open for emergency vehicles
- Ordinarily a Registered Nurse and a Standard First Aid Person must remain at camp at all times.

In all areas, safety overrides all written procedures, but adhering to these procedures will aid in quick assistance. EMS will also be notified and assist if available.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

In the event of an injury or emergency, the hostess office will act as a communications center. The following patterns of communication will be observed:

1. Ordinarily in the event of an injury in camp, the oldest staff member present or the most highly certified first aid provider will perform immediate first aid and then send another staff member to the office, or have them communicate by radio, to notify the nurse and directors. A staff member will then remain in the office at all times to man the P.A. system and the phones in connection with the emergency. This person will also handle normal camp communication so that it does not interfere with the emergency communications. This person will also call for community emergency aid if needed.
2. In the event of an emergency or injury out of camp, the most highly certified first aid provider on the trip will assure the well being of the campers first and see that the office is called. The office personnel will then follow the procedure described in #1 above. Ordinarily the most highly certified first aid provider will remain present at the scene of the incident and the assistant will handle communication.
3. In the event that the public address and phone systems are not operating, support staff will patrol the camp to assure all is well. Should you need to communicate with the office, send the youngest staff member when it is safe to do so.
4. At the time that the director deems it appropriate, he/she will contact the parents or guardian of the campers involved.
5. **All media inquiries will be politely referred to the camp director.** No other staff may speak with media or post on any social media platform without the director's permission.

EMERGENCY VEHICLES

In the event of an emergency, all camp vans may be used to transport injured campers. The keys are ordinarily kept in the program office. Because of their potential use as emergency vehicles, anyone using them for trips should be sure that they contain three fourths of a tank of gas (at the least) when they are returned to camp and ensure their keys are promptly returned. They can be filled and gas charged to the camp at the Black Mountain Ingles.

In the event that the vans are out of camp when an emergency occurs, we reserve the right to use private staff cars. Because of such potential, we request that your gas tanks be kept at least half full at all times.

HAZARDOUS AREAS IN CAMP

Though the directors and maintenance staff are engaged in an ongoing effort to minimize safety hazards throughout camp, there are still some areas that present some degree of danger, and both campers and staff should be aware of them.

1. Volleyball games and other exciting activities in the Mike...the campers who are sitting in the balcony have a tendency to jump and sit on the balcony rail. Staff members should be vigilant to prevent this practice.
2. No one, including staff, should mount any gymnastic equipment unless supervised by one of the gymnastic instructors.
3. The hazard on the lake is obvious. All staff should scan the lake when they walk past.
4. The steps between the upper and lower tennis courts can be hazardous. All campers should be aware of this.
5. The equipment used by the maintenance crew can be hazardous to bystanders. All campers and staff should stay clear of this equipment while it is in use and should not enter maintenance areas (the shop, the maintenance shed, or the tractor shed) without express invitation from a Director.
6. Many camp steps, including the steps of The Mike are slippery when wet. Warn your campers to be careful when using steps, especially on rainy days.
7. Railings on porches throughout camp, especially the front railings of The Mike porch, should not be used as seating. Take special notice of when campers are waiting to go into The Mike for special events, and if someone is seated on or doing something unsafe on a railing, ask them to get down.

There are other hazards that are inherent in each special area. It is the responsibility of each activity director to acquaint the campers involved in his or her classes of the potential dangers of their sport.

HIGH WIND, TORNADOES, CYCLONES, HURRICANES LIGHTNING AND HAIL PROCEDURES

Staff and campers will move to the closest indoor shelter (as follows, if possible) and wait for “all clear.” Listen for the Camp-Wide Emergency Modes over the P.A.

Preferred locations include: The Enchanted Barn, Tucker Inn, The Mike, Milky Way, Drama Room, The Lodge, The Mark. All people in cabins should remain in cabins.

When in the shelter, stay clear of glass and possible flying objects. Everyone should be on the ground level of the shelters. This means that campers in Blue Heaven and Moonmist should move to Comet.

When the storm has passed, the senior-most staff member may choose to send everyone back to the cabins where a bed check will be made and the Cabin Area Director will report the results to the office. The Hostess will inform the camp director and notify, if necessary, 911 and utility companies. After everyone is accounted for, injured cared for, and weather conditions are safe, the Hostess will announce to resume normal activities.

FIRE PROCEDURE - CABIN/ACTIVITY AREAS

When a fire is detected in a cabin or near an activity area the staff will evacuate all campers quickly and quietly through the exit furthest from the site of the fire. Do not hesitate to use windows if doors are blocked by fire. If possible, the oldest staff member present will be the last to leave the building. Immediately upon evacuation of the building, the oldest staff member will, if conditions permit, re-enter and use the nearest fire extinguisher to extinguish the fire.

Immediately upon evacuation of the affected cabin, one staff member will verbally sound the alarm by going to each cabin in the camp division and calling "fire." The Cabin Area Director will send word to the office, and the Hostess will announce the fire for the appropriate camp division over the P.A. system. The Hostess will then call the Black Mountain Fire Department. In the event of a small fire, evacuation won't be for the entire camp, but only for the camp division affected by the fire.

In the event of fire in Jr. Camp, the Big House will also be evacuated. Upon evacuation of a camp division, the campers from that division will form by cabins in the following locations, and role will be taken.

Senior Hill	Lower Tennis Courts
Bear Camp	Bank by Riding Ring
Junior Camp & the Big House	Macky's Green

Missing campers will be reported immediately to the hostess, and, if feasible, the Cabin Area Director will re-enter the building where the fire is located to search for the missing camper. Campers will not return to the cabin until directed to do so by an announcement from the camp director or the P.A. system.

Every cabin will have at least two exits. Cabins such as Little Dipper, Pluto, Milky Way and Blue Heaven, which do not have an additional exit, will have an exit sign over one of the screens. *Counselors will instruct campers during their first cabin talk to punch the screen out in the case of a fire.*

FIRE PROCEDURE – TUCKER INN/BIG HOUSE

In the event of a fire in Tucker Inn, the kitchen or Big House, during a time when Tucker Inn is occupied, the oldest staff present will direct the campers to leave the tables in single file. All will move to Macky's Green and line up by cabins facing the barn with Junior Camp closest to the church.

Regardless of the occupancy of Tucker Inn, the sleeping quarters of the Big House will be evacuated in the event of fire. Should that happen, the Junior Cabin Area Director will be responsible for alerting the women's wing of evacuation and the oldest maintenance employee will be responsible for alerting the men's wing of evacuation. These same people are responsible for counting and reporting to a director once assembled on Mackey's Green.

The Big House and Tucker Inn have a central fire alarm. As soon as a fire is noticed, pull the alarm.

FLASH FLOOD AND BREAKAGE OF THE DAM

The following procedure will be implemented:

1. The oldest staff member will direct the people to a point above the water flow. Junior Camp and the Big House staff will report to The Mike. Everyone else will report to their cabins.
2. The youngest staff member will inform the hostess who will announce the situation to the camp by the P.A. system. She will then inform the camp director and call 911.
3. The youngest staff member in each cabin will conduct a bed check and check for injuries.
4. They will report findings to the CAD who will inform the hostess in The Mike.
5. Mass injury procedure and missing camper procedure would be followed if necessary, with the exception of no aid station at the dining hall and the Administration will be set up in The Mike.
6. Transportation would be as stated in the mass injuries procedure and would use the back gate.
7. After everyone is accounted for, injured cared for, and weather conditions are safe, the hostess will announce to resume normal activities.

Designated members of our full time team have a NOAA radio with them at night. Should conditions for flash flooding occur, a staff member will be monitoring the lake and creek before implementing the above procedure, at which point all campers in Junior Camp and Big House Staff would be awoken and evacuated.

EARTHQUAKES AND LANDSLIDES PROCEDURES

1. The senior-most staff member will clear the area of people and direct them to a safe location.
2. The junior-most staff member will inform the hostess of the situation.
3. The hostess will announce the situation on the P.A. system and direct the staff on what action to take.
4. After the earthquake and/or landslide, everyone will report to their cabins for a bed check and report results to the CAD who will notify the office of their findings.
5. If a cabin has been damaged in any way, those campers and staff should report to the Mike for a camper check.
6. If necessary, they will set up an aid station. If there is a missing camper, the hostess will announce for missing camper procedure.
7. After everyone is accounted for, injured cared for, and weather conditions are safe, camp will resume.

INTRUSION OF UNAUTHORIZED PEOPLE

Every visitor must carry a visitor's pass validating that they have checked in at the office.

If a counselor knows of or suspects any unauthorized person on the property, he or she should immediately notify his or her director or the hostess who will then investigate and determine whether the police should be notified. There will be no attempt by any campers to confront suspected trespassers. *It is the counselor's responsibility to ask any stranger, who is not accompanied by a staff member and is without a visitor's pass, to check in at the office. The counselor should then escort him or her to the office.*

CAMP SECURITY

Every effort has been made to make camp secure from outside visitors. A fence surrounds a good portion of the property, lights are automatically turned on at night in the main camp areas, and at times we employ a night security guard. Still, in a camp we need to take basic security precautions.

1. No campers or staff should walk alone away from the main cabin area after dark.
2. When leaving for evening activities, turn on your cabin's lights so your campers will return to a lighted cabin after dark.

If you see a stranger, ask to see their visitor's pass. If they do not have one then find another counselor and together accompany them to the office to check in.

NIGHTTIME STRANGERS/POTENTIAL TRESPASSERS

We also have a policy for dealing with strangers/potential trespassers at night because our normal policy, described in step #3 above, gets less practical as it gets later in the evening. Follow these steps if you see a stranger on property at night when other staff members are sleeping:

1. Before all else, make sure your campers are safe and supervised.
2. Make a reasonable attempt to see if it is a counselor, camper, or someone you know.
3. If your cabin is asleep, then *wake up two additional staff*. Do not disturb a sleeping cabin if at all possible. Leave one staff member to supervise the sleeping cabin.
4. With the other counselor, go get the security guard or a director.

Use good judgment. These steps should be followed carefully and calmly. Never physically interact with or attempt to restrain a stranger. If the situation gets any more complicated and a director is not present, send a staff member to get a director, regardless of the hour. Do get as much information as possible about who they are, what they look like, and what they are doing on property.

EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN

This information is provided to camp employees in partial compliance with OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogen Standard. It is the intent of Camp Merri-Mac to educate people about issues related to exposure to body fluids, to use management techniques and equipment to minimize exposure risks for employees, and to monitor individuals' use of these techniques. The camp recognizes universal precautions as an effective control measure. This describes the application and monitoring of potential sources of risk in the camp program, the steps taken by camp to protect employees, and the actions taken by camp if blood or body fluid exposure occurs.

JOB CLASSIFICATIONS WHICH, BY VIRTUE OF JOB DESCRIPTION, INCUR THE RISK OF EXPOSURE TO BLOOD AND OTHER BODY FLUIDS: nurse, nursing assistant

JOB CLASSIFICATIONS WHICH, BY VIRTUE OF JOB DESCRIPTION, PROVIDE FIRST-AID CARE AS AN ANCILLARY TASK RATHER THAN A PRIMARY TASK: Designated wilderness first aider in camp tripping programs, lifeguarding staff when on-duty at the waterfront.

(ALL OTHER JOB CLASSIFICATIONS ARE NOT EXPECTED TO PROVIDE FIRST AID BUT RATHER REFER PEOPLE IN NEED OF HEALTH CARE TO THE NURSE/NURSING ASSISTANT.)

Camp nurses and nursing assistants (NAs) can reasonably expect to come in contact with blood and other body fluids. The potential for exposure to transmitted diseases is greatest for these staff members. Consequently, the recommended exposure control plan involves the following practices:

Members of the camp health-care team are oriented to the potential for exposure by camp's health-care administrator. A record of who received the education and its content is kept for three years by the

administrator. The orientation includes:

- Identification of risk areas: contact with bloodborne pathogens (e.g., hepatitis, HIV), contact with airborne pathogens (e.g., common cold, TB), contact with surface-borne pathogens (e.g., staph infections).
- Education about the nature of the risk: method of transmission, virulence of pathogens, resistance factors related to potential host, symptoms, and information sources which provide clues to potential risk areas.
- Work practices designed to minimize exposure:
 - Availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) – gloves, CPR mask, antimicrobial soap, (eye, nose, and mouth) shield, body fluid spill clean-up kits.
 - Double-bagging via red bag and disposal procedure for hazardous waste.
 - Screening individuals who come to the program.
 - Requiring participants to provide health information.
 - Use of universal precautions by staff.
 - Education for people working in risk areas: health-care team members, lifeguards, housekeeping, kitchen staff.
 - Hepatitis B vaccination for nurses: camp pays for vaccinations done by the local provider during the nurse's contracted time. Camp encourages unvaccinated nurses to get vaccinated.
 - DVD/video which teaches effective use of the CPR mask.
 - Sharps container provided which has biohazard label affixed.
 - Resource personnel to answer questions: camp health-care administrator, camp supervising physician, and State Dept. of Health epidemiologist.
- Behavior expected from employees to minimize risk:
 - Use of PPE:
 - Gloves are used when in contact with body fluids or providing skin treatment (e.g., applying medication to poison ivy, washing a rash).
 - CPR mask is used to provide CPR/artificial respiration.
- Minimum 15-second hand washing with antimicrobial soap after: removing gloves, contact with potential risk, unprotected contact with any body fluid.
- Minimum 60-second hand washing with antimicrobial soap after blood splash.
- Use of body fluid spill clean-up kit.
- Vaccination to protect from hepatitis B.
- Sharps disposed of properly: no recapping of needles, all sharps (lancets, needles) placed in sharps container immediately after use, full sharps container given to Administrator for disposal through local hospital.
- Participation in education about disease control.
- Immediate reporting suspected exposure (e.g., needle stick) to supervisor and Administrator.
- Performing job tasks in a manner which minimizes/eliminates exposure potential.

Camp Counseling Staff

While the potential for exposure to bloodborne pathogens is minimal for general counseling staff, it does exist. The camp health-care plan vests authority in general staff to respond to emergencies at the level of their training while initiating the camp emergency response system. Since camp emergency response occurs within minutes, the potential for exposure is limited and most likely confined to initiating CPR/artificial respiration and slowing severe bleeding.

In keeping with accepted practices, the camp health-care administrator educates camp staff during orientation about appropriate response practices:

- Staff are instructed to use a CPR mask for CPR and artificial respiration; masks are kept at the waterfront and health center.
- Staff are instructed to use gloves when potential for contact with blood or blood-tinged fluids exist. Gloves are in all first-aid kits. Staff members who want to carry a pair on their person may obtain them from the health center.
- Staff are instructed to respond in emergency situations to the level of their training per State Good Samaritan regulations.
- Staff are instructed to initiate the camp emergency response system immediately.
- Staff participate in a discussion of "emergency" to establish defining attributes of their response.
- Staff are educated to approach care of minor injuries from a coaching perspective and specifically directed to refer injured people to the camp health-care team if self-care is inappropriate or impossible.

HEPATITIS B VACCINATION STATEMENT

(In response to the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens rule [1992], which requires that employers provide access to the Hepatitis B vaccine to “all occupationally exposed” employees, this form has been used by some ACA camps. This form may be a piece of the camp’s OSHA-required Exposure Control Plan, your local OSHA regulating agency.)

I understand that due to my occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials, I may be at risk of acquiring the Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection. I have been given information on the Hepatitis B vaccine, including information on its efficacy, safety, method of administration, the benefits of being vaccinated, and that the vaccine and vaccination will be offered free of charge.

OPTION 1

_____ has completed the following inoculations using:
(name of employee)

- Recombivax-HB or Engerix-B vaccine

Inoculation 1: Date _____ Given at _____

Inoculation 2: Date _____ Given at _____

Inoculation 3: Date _____ Given at _____

OR

- See attached medical form for additional information
- Option 2

I understand that I have been given the opportunity to be vaccinated with the Hepatitis B vaccine at no charge to myself. By not returning this form to the director I am indicating that I am declining the

vaccination at this time. I understand that by declining this vaccine, I continue to be at risk of acquiring Hepatitis B, a serious disease. If, in the future, I continue to have occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials and I want to be vaccinated with the Hepatitis B vaccine, I can receive the vaccination series at no charge to me.

Please check either Option 1 or Option 2 above, then sign and date below:

Employee Name (please print)

Employee Signature

Date _____

Post-Exposure Plan for Camp

Camp employees who have a blood exposure incident are eligible for follow-up treatment. Follow-up is initiated by the employee who must immediately (within fifteen minutes) notify the camp nurse when a blood exposure incident occurs. The following plan is initiated. Records of the incident are maintained for the duration of employment plus thirty (30) years by the Camp Director and according to OSHA requirements (i.e., separate from personnel records). Camp administration debriefs each incident in an effort to identify ways to improve the camp's exposure risk.

Timeline	Employee's Actions	Camp Nurse's Actions	Camp Director's Actions
Within 24 hours	<p>Exposure incident occurs. Report an incident to the camp nurse within 15 minutes of happening.</p> <p>Begin prophylactic treatment.</p> <p>Complete Workers' comp form & incident report with camp director.</p>	<p>Notify camp director. Begin a 15-second scrub of area with bacteriostatic soap, followed by application of disinfectant.</p> <p>Contact supervising MD and refer client for assessment.</p> <p>Begin psychosocial support process.</p>	<p>Determine source of contamination; initiate request to have source screened for infectious diseases.</p> <p>Notify insurance.</p> <p>Create incident report file with supporting documentation.</p> <p>Contact mental health professional for employee.</p> <p>Complete Workers' comp & incident report form with employee.</p>
Within next 48 hours	<p>Continue medical follow-up, per MD orders.</p> <p>Begin counseling support.</p>	<p>Monitor client adjustment to situation; answer questions, as needed. Provide needed care.</p>	<p>Follow testing of source individual as warranted.</p> <p>Consult with mental health professional to arrange post-camp therapy, per need.</p>

Beyond first three days	Continue post-exposure prophylaxis, as directed by MD. Participate in review of incident.	Participate in review of incident.	Maintain contact with employee to follow incident. Lead review of incident. Review incident; adapt camp practices as needed to manage risk, and to minimize chance for repeat of situation. Maintain records for duration of employment, plus 30 years.
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V. Out-of-Camp Regulations

WILDERNESS TRIP REGULATIONS

1. Ratios

Regardless of the size of the trip, there must be a minimum of two staff for each out of camp trip, and the camper staff ratio will not ordinarily be above 8:1 on the trail. An exception will be if a specific activity (i.e. adventure challenge, Mountain Biking, etc.), or published environmental standards mandate a different ratio. It is the responsibility of the trip director to learn these restrictions and to assure that they are not violated. The Camp Director may grant minor exceptions to the staff to camper rule. Ordinarily, group size will be limited to 15 people.

2. Leave No Trace

One of the main focuses of all wilderness trips will be on low impact camping. Not only will the adage "pack it in, pack it out" be followed, but each trip will be charged with the responsibility of leaving the terrain in better condition than they found it. In an effort to leave each site in a better condition than when we arrived, each site will also be brushed to remove footprints and large rocks that may have been moved will be returned. No fires will be lit except where fire pits already exist. When fires are used, wood for them must be found as deadfall and unused wood and ashes should be scattered upon leaving the area. Whenever possible leftover food should be packed out. Additionally, we will concentrate impact in High Use Areas, spread our use of pristine areas, avoid places where impact is just beginning, and use fire responsibly per director and activity procedures descriptions.

3. Sanitation

Sanitation is not a pleasant topic, but every camper and every trip leader must, for the sake of others, consider it openly. With proper "cat sanitation," and due care and consideration in the choice of sites, no problem should arise. All sites utilized for this function will be located a minimum of 200 feet from any water supply, trail or campsite, when safe to do so. All toilet paper will be buried as well as all feces. Only biodegradable non-detergent soap will be used on the trail.

4. Trip Request and Appropriate Participants

All trip leaders and guides will possess the technical skills required by the ACA Standards. At least one of the staff members will be familiar with the route, hazards that may be encountered, points of interest that the campers will enjoy and benefit from seeing. After planning the trip, the trip leader will review the proposed route and all portions of the "Trip Request Form" will be completed.

After obtaining approval for the trip from the camp director, the trip leader will file plans with the camp hostess. Supplies will include properly sanitized utensils, food, water and purification, an appropriate first aid kit, etc. All members of the trip will obtain the approval of the camp health director no more than 24 hours before the trip departure. In "regulated" wilderness areas the trip leader will be responsible for obtaining permission and/or permits from the appropriate agency.

Ordinarily the trip leader will announce the trip the evening meal one day before the trip is scheduled. Certain exceptions may be made with the approval of the camp director. In any event the trip leader will select only campers and staff who are physically and emotionally capable of making the proposed trip.

5. Food and Water

Ordinarily water will be obtained from a public water source. Off-Site Drinking Water shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) Water transported for off-site drinking shall be from an approved source and shall be transported and stored in clean, sanitized containers designated solely for this purpose. Where it is not practical to transport drinking water for off-site activities, treatment measures shall be provided to ensure that drinking water is free from disease causing organisms.
- (b) Water shall be taken from free-flowing streams, springs and wells if available. Water may be taken from still sources when free-flowing sources are unavailable. Water shall be visibly clear and free from debris, trash and organic matter.

Treatment of Off-Site Drinking Water shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) Water shall be brought to a rolling boil for a minimum of one minute; or
- (b) Water shall be filtered to remove cysts and viruses by using a filtration system with an absolute pore size of one micron or smaller, and treated with:
 - (i) A minimum of 2 parts per million of free chlorine residual maintained for a minimum of 30 minutes; or
 - (ii) A minimum of 5 drops of 2 percent tincture of iodine per liter of water. For commercially prepared tablets, manufacturers directions shall be followed; or

Food deemed perishable by the kitchen director will be packed according to his/her instructions. This will include all foods whose ingredients are capable of supporting growth of microorganisms (i.e. milk products,

eggs, shellfish, poultry, etc.). Such food should be maintained below 40 or above 140 degrees. All eating and cooking utensils will be washed until sanitized before next use; for multi-day trips all utensils will be boiled at least once per day. All equipment will be washed again by the kitchen staff in the kitchen dishwasher upon return to camp and then stored in a sanitary manner until their next use.

All requests for food from the kitchen will be made no less than 24 hours, and preferably 48 hours in advance. A friendly reminder the night before you leave is a good idea. Be sure to put eyes on all packouts before you leave camp to ensure that any dietary restrictions are accommodated.

6. First Aid Certifications Needed

A staff member with the following certifications, or a more advanced appropriate certifications, must be present in the following circumstances.

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---------------------|
| A. | <30 minutes to Hospital | Basic First Aid/CPR |
| B. | >30 minutes to Hospital | WFA or WFR/CPR |

If there is a certified WFR or WFA present, he/she may act in that capacity with attention given to the conditions necessary to institute wilderness protocol.

7. Equipment

All equipment (flys, packs, stoves, etc.) will be inspected by the trip leader prior to each use.

The proper use of camp stoves will be taught in the backpacking classes and no one will operate these stoves unless they have been approved as an operator by a member of the backpacking staff. If campers use stoves they will be under the supervision of a staff member. In every event fuel will be held at least 15 feet away from the stove. Proper stove use will differ according to model; each stove will only be used in accordance with manufacturer directions. All backcountry food and cooking utensils will be sanitized after each meal and stowed safely in packs until next use.

8. Safety and Emergency Procedures

The buddy system may be used on trips in which case the leader may, at his or her discretion, ask for a buddy count. The campers will be counted before leaving each location. Careful Counselors Constantly Count. Campers will ordinarily wear whistles and will be instructed where and when to use it by the trip director, unless it is deemed unsafe to do so.

If a camper needs to be evacuated the first choice will be to hike the entire group to the road head. In the event of an emergency where the trip director deems it necessary to leave one or more members of the group on the trail and go for help, the following procedure will be followed: The campers will be counted. The campers to stay on the trail will be left with a senior staff member with provisions. The senior staff member that knows the trail best goes for help. The remaining staff member will keep the group together, preferably remaining in place, but hiking out if necessary.

In the event that a buddy check shows that a member of the group is missing a similar procedure will be followed. The departing senior staff member will re-trace the trail, periodically blowing a whistle and listening for a reply. All members of a trip will have been instructed that, if they have become separated from the group, they should not move and should blow their whistle periodically until a staff member comes to them.

Communication with the main camp in the event of an emergency or change in trip plans will be accomplished by a phone call to one of the camp directors. Contact numbers are included in each first aid kit. No communication will be made with a camper's parents or the media except through the camp director or someone appointed in their stead. The Directors may also contact the appropriate rescue agency.

9. Safety Talk

Campers will be given a safety orientation that includes expected behavior at off camp locations.

10. Aquatic Sites Away from Camp

An aquatic site will be defined as any setting where a camper will be in water over her thigh. By this definition a river ford may be an aquatic site.

- A. Upon arrival at an aquatic site campers and staff will be oriented to rules and boundaries.
- B. Staff will assess water and weather conditions to identify hazards and determine appropriate activities.
- C. Camper access may then be limited as appropriate. This may be based on the camper's swimming ability, or degree of staff training.
- D. Staff will ensure that the facility appears to be in good repair, and that in every event appropriate rescue equipment is available and in good repair.
- E. For any aquatic activity there will be at least two staff present, one of which will be out of the water as a trained lookout and one of whom will be an adult and certified lifeguard.
- F. All staff accompanying campers to public aquatic facilities must be trained on written procedures that specify their supervisory roles and responsibilities.

11. Other Regulations

All Forest Service regulations will be observed. All active Peregrine Falcon closures will be respected. Crowded areas will be avoided and group size will be limited based on the needs of a LNT ethic.

OUT OF CAMP TRIP REGULATIONS

Camp staff remain responsible for all their caregiver roles when out of camp, even when the trip is overseen by other contracted help.

Before transporting campers away from camp, you must do the following:

1. Complete a Trip Request Form.
2. File completed trip form.
3. Know the location of the nearest medical facility to your point of destination.

SUPERVISION RATIOS

Campers will ordinarily be accompanied by two staff members. One will be the designated trip leader, and the other will be responsible for safety and group management. There will always be an adult staff member. Exceptions will be considered by the director signing the trip form.

On normal out of camp trips a minimum staff ratio in a van will be two staff members to 13 campers. The staff should also be prepared with activities to engage the children during the trip. Activities should be

appropriate to the age, mental ability, and physical condition of the campers. One person on all trips should have at minimum a first-aid certification.

In case of a vehicle break down:

1. If possible, remove the vehicle from danger of being struck by passing traffic.
2. If prudent, remove the campers to a safe place where they are out of danger from being struck by passing traffic. This may require remaining in the vehicle until help arrives.
3. Place emergency warning markers behind the vehicle.
4. Call for help, or flag down a passing motorist and ask them to send help and to call the camp and notify the directors of your location. Staff should not ever accept a ride from a stranger, instead, ask them to drive to an area with cell service and call camp. At least one adult staff member will remain with the campers at all times. Of course, if a second vehicle is on the trip, its driver will go for help. If appropriate, one counselor may identify witnesses.
5. Notify the camp, and only the camp, when safe to do so. Do not post on social media or call anyone else. When on a trip any communication with the camp should be done through the Hostess, Director or Program Directors. The camp director, or their designated representative, will handle any contact with parents or media.

All camp vehicles leaving the Swannanoa Valley are equipped with an emergency first aid kit. It is the responsibility of the camp nurse, working in conjunction with the trip leader, to assure that these kits and information are properly stocked and completed. Health forms will, in most circumstances, remain in the infirmary and be sent to the appropriate hospital if needed.

Any trip outside of the Swannanoa Valley will be supervised by a minimum of two staff members who are familiar with and capable of implementing the emergency procedures described in this section. Two staff members in two different cars that stay together on a trip will be considered to be in compliance with this section. Trips in the valley, to the doctor and to the Asheville Airport may be made with only one trained staff member.

Should a minor injury occur on any trip, a staff member will administer first aid. Should a serious injury occur on a trip, a staff member will stay with the injured camper and the remainder of the campers while another staff member goes/calls for help. The next phone call should be to the camp. Staff should not speak with the media or parents, but should instead direct all questions to the camp director. If there is no 911 service in the area, the trip leader will take the injured camper, and, if appropriate, everyone on the trip to the nearest hospital. The details of all such injuries will be entered in the infirmary logbook immediately upon the trip leader's return to camp. Should the injury require the aid of a doctor, an accident report will be filed.

If there is a Certified WFR or WFA on the trip then he/she may act in that capacity if he/she is in a wilderness context.

Should an emergency involve a traffic accident, one staff member, after assuring the safety of the campers and administering aid to any injured, will obtain the name and phone number of any witnesses to the emergency and who may be present and will make notes of any license numbers of other vehicles that may be involved. After these procedures, a staff member will notify the camp office giving to one of the directors details of the emergency.

All ratios will be met if each person is wearing a seatbelt and a qualified driver is behind the wheel. It will be the Trip Leader's responsibility to ensure that these procedures are followed.

COUNSELORS AND CARS

Camp is a pedestrian environment. When cars do drive on property, the speed limit at camp is 7 miles per hour. All roads, except the lower tennis court to the Big House, are one way, generally bearing right. All counselors must park at the Mountain View Lot or on Carolina Heights, unless they receive special permission of a director. It is supremely important that all staff parking on Carolina Heights pull their vehicles completely off the pavement onto the gravel so that no part of their car is sticking out onto the road. Central staff may park in the designated area in front of the Big House. No campers may ride in a staff member's car without the permission of a director.

All camp vans are ordinarily to be parked at the Upper Lot.

All delivery trucks are to be notified of the route they are to take while on the property.

VEHICLE SAFETY

- A. The first time that each child rides in a passenger vehicle she will be instructed on safety regulations. This will include: 1. Instructions to use seatbelts and not to remove them, 2. and instructions to obey the driver, 3. to remain seated, 4. evacuation procedures if in a bus.
- B. Camp vehicles will not be loaded beyond manufacturer's capacity, or number of seat belts. Any other vehicles used will not be loaded beyond seat belt capacity.
- C. Children under 8 who weigh less than 80 pounds will be in a booster seat with a shoulder strap.
- D. Campers and counselors must wear seatbelts while traveling off the property.
- E. If two or more vehicles are traveling together, there will be no passing unless absolutely necessary. Also, they will remain a safe distance apart.
- F. Any people in wheelchairs will be belted into chairs which will be locked in position and secured to the vehicle. Camp does not currently have vehicles appropriate for wheelchairs.

NON-PASSENGER VEHICLES

No camper or staff will ride in the back of a pickup truck or wagon where seats are not attached to the vehicle. The exceptions are slow moving "hay rides" (i.e. the Fourth of July parade and Christmas breakfast), and maintenance or operational needs (i.e., setting up cookouts or moving equipment).

POTENTIAL CONTACT WITH STRANGERS DURING OUT-OF-CAMP TRIPS

During trips out of camp where strangers may be encountered either in the town or in the wilderness, the following procedure will be followed:

- 1. The campers will be buddied up as they are on the waterfront. Buddy checks will be taken periodically. Buddies must stay together at all times.
- 2. Staff will endeavor to keep the entire group in sight at all times. There will also be predetermined check in times; these will be determined by the trip leader and based on specifics of location. Every camper will be supervised unless the camp director gives permission for this not to occur.
- 3. If the trip leader believes it is appropriate the campers will be instructed to not talk to any stranger,

and, if separated from the group, to seek aid only from officials such as law enforcement officers, store employees, etc.

4. Should a camper be missing from the group, one staff member will initiate the search procedure. A second staff member will stay with the main group, keeping them together and in one place.
5. Upon arrival at the area, give campers an orientation defining boundaries, bathroom procedures and what to do if lost.

VI. Staff Policies

CELL PHONE POLICY

You are invited to bring your cell phone to camp, with some restrictions. You may use your cell phone *only* during your day and night off, during a designated period off, and occasionally during rest time. Your phone *must remain off in the cell phone cabinet at all other times - meaning your phone never goes on to camp property.*

OUTSIDE FOOD/DRINK POLICY

All outside food/drink that you bring on camp property should be in nondescript containers such as reusable cups, tumblers, water bottles, non-branded carry-out containers. For example, a McDonald's diet coke or Starbucks drink should be in a tumbler if brought around campers. This is simply because we find it is not helpful to remind them of what they can't have while they are here!

ONLINE DATING

If you choose to engage in any form of online dating while at camp you must do so without posting or sharing the location of camp. Our expectation and requirement is that you meet your date in a neutral location; they may not pick you up on property for considerations of child safety.

GUIDELINES REGARDING APPROPRIATE TOUCH

1. Appropriate touch involves the short (5 seconds or less) display of greeting, good-bye, or encouragement of some specific event.
2. Touch should involve only the hands, arms, upper backs or shoulders of another.
3. Front to front staff-initiated hugging is inappropriate. Side hugs are preferred.
4. Public meeting areas are to be used for mixed company.
5. Campers may not ever be inside any cabin except their own.
6. Staff members are, throughout the camp, mandated reporters and should immediately report to the director any concern regarding misconduct. This includes abuse away from camp.
7. No staff is to be isolated with a camper or counselor. If you need to talk, use an open area in sight of others. Avoid all physical contact in these situations.
8. Staff should never have a camper out after 10:00 P.M. Exceptions include: emergencies and *program staff planned* camp operations.
9. When you find yourself alone with a camper, either call another staff member or walk with the

camper to another location.

10. If you must counsel with a camper after dark, inform the cabin counselor of your location and remain in eyesight and earshot of others.
11. Be careful of verbal comments. Do not allow jests about body parts or off color innuendoes.
12. Camp is a camera-free environment, except for social media and photography teams. There should never be a camera inside a cabin.
13. Staff should never be naked in the presence of campers. This includes "mooning" and other public displays. When walking to and from the bathroom, a towel is a minimum requirement.
14. No staff member may have a romantic or exclusive relationship with any camper, CIT or other Merri-Mac staff member.
15. Tickling, teasing, or sarcasm directed towards a camper is unacceptable.

People are comfortable with differing levels of modesty. Any conduct that makes a camper or another counselor uncomfortable is inappropriate and may be cause for dismissal. It is also your responsibility to report any concerns to the directors.

STAFF CONTACTS WITH PARENTS

Occasionally, especially on opening and closing days, you will have direct contact with parents. During these times you may be the *only* contact that the parent has with camp personnel, and the reputation of Merri-Mac rests solely in your hands. Be the first to introduce yourself and mention that you are their daughter's counselor or C.I.T. or an Activity Director. If you know something nice about their daughter, say it. In any event, thank them for sharing their child with us.

Beyond opening and closing day procedures, no staff should initiate contact with a camper's parents without prior permission from the directors. In the event a parent contacts a staff member, the staff member should inform directors before replying.

RELEASE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

Our campers are given to us in trust by their parents. On occasion we have had requests for information concerning our campers from various agencies and individuals. No staff is authorized to give any information concerning campers or other staff. This includes confirming that they are at camp. The dissemination of such information is to be given only at the direction of one of the directors.

No information is to be given to the media, or on any social media platform without express permission of one of the camp directors. In the event of an emergency, directors or a designated media liaison is the only person authorized to communicate with the media.

THE KITCHEN

No one is allowed in the kitchen except by invitation. This is not just our preference, this is policy mandated by the health inspector.

STAFF HEALTH

The benefits that you will give your campers will be negligible if you are sick or constantly tired. The same

rules apply to *your* health as to the health of your campers. You need rest, healthy sleep, good eating habits and good personal hygiene just as thoroughly as a competing athlete. Sleeping is part of your job so you should be in bed by 11:00 p.m. Use your days off for rest, not for challenging activities that will leave you fatigued the next day. Wash your hands regularly and practice good hygiene, even if you think you would be going overboard to keep this same level of hygiene away from camp.

GENERAL DRESS

Both campers and staff are expected to maintain a neat, clean-cut appearance at all times. Merri-Mac is a special place, and we do have an “official” dress code on opening days and an informal one at all other times. Because of foot injuries in our mountainous terrain, flip-flops and other sandals without heel straps are not allowed in camp outside of the cabin (Ex: Teva’s and Chaco’s are ok, Reef’s, Rainbow’s are not). Also, please remember that one-piece suites are required and modesty is appreciated.

VISITS BY PARENTS, RELATIVES, FRIENDS AND POLICY CONCERNING CAMPERS AND STAFF LEAVING CAMP

There are no visitors on camp.

Only the Directors may grant permission for a camper to leave camp with anyone, including their parents. Every camper must be signed out to leave camp. A camper will be considered an absentee if the hostess informs the director she is not on the property by Tattoo. At that time the director will ordinarily call the camper’s family.

With the exception of scheduled days and evenings off, staff members may not leave the camp property without the express permission of one of the camp Directors and all absences from the camp must be evidenced on the check-out sheet. **Leaving camp without permission may result in dismissal.**

SMOKING/VAPING/DRINKING

Campers or staff who consume alcohol (regardless of age), smoke or vape at camp or during time off may be dismissed from camp. This includes all nicotine products and illegal drugs.

DAYS AND NIGHTS OFF

All staff will have one day off per week, from after breakfast until 12:00 A.M., and a night off per week, from after dinner until 12:00 A.M. You need time away from your campers if you are to consistently do your job well and effectively. At the same time, there will be some days (opening day, etc.) when time off will not be available.

These days will be assigned to assure that all areas are covered with competent supervision. A Director will schedule all days and nights off for cabin counselors; requests are welcome. You will have the same day off and night off each week so make your plans accordingly. Camp is all about flexibility so these may change from session to session.

Leaves of absence and other time off is only granted on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by a

full-time director.

C.I.T.s will not be allowed to leave the immediate Asheville area on their days off without the approval of the Director.

GRATUITIES

It is against our policy for you to accept gifts from parents, and you should politely decline.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

In a situation where large numbers of campers and staff live together for a prolonged period of time, there is a strong tendency to borrow and lend personal articles. This practice is discouraged among campers and staff.

Articles requiring specific attention are as follows:

1. Jewelry and other valuable personal effects should not be brought to camp.
2. We recommend that personal vehicles not be loaned or borrowed.
3. Staff are not permitted to bring firearms to camp. Other hazardous equipment such as bows, arrows, large knives, etc. must be stored under lock and key as directed by the camp director.
4. Cash should not be kept at camp.
5. *Pets and other non-camp animals are not allowed in camp.*

STAFF RECREATIONAL USE OF FACILITIES

Staff members are welcome to use the activity facilities during their free times provided that their own activity areas and cabins are covered and that the following stipulations are met:

1. The facility is not currently in use by campers.
2. Permission for the facility use has been obtained from the appropriate activity director.
3. The same safety procedure is observed for staff as is required for campers. These procedures shall include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Certified lifeguard approved by the waterfront must be actively on duty, out of the water, and guarding during any use of the waterfront, including swimming, diving, canoeing, blobbing, water-sliding, and sunbathing on the dock.
 - b. Lifejackets will be worn by all staff on the lake.
 - c. Buddy Tags and sign in sheets will be used.
 - d. A member of the archery staff must be present during any use of the archery range, and range procedure prescribed in the archery regulations will be observed.
 - e. A member of the riflery staff will be present during any use of the rifle range and the range procedure prescribed in the riflery regulations. No firearms larger than 22 caliber will be used on the range without the Camp Director's permission.
 - f. A member of the gymnastics staff who is approved by the gymnastics director will be present any time that the gymnastics equipment is in use.
 - g. No staff will enter the paddock without the permission of the riding staff. No staff will ride any horse unless in the presence of a member of the riding staff and with the express permission of both the riding director and the camp director.
 - h. All ropes course and climbing elements are unavailable without the permission of activity

head, a qualified instructor present and a certified belayer belaying.

VI. Thank you!

THANK YOU!

Thank you for reading all the way to the end of the Staff Manual. We know it's a lot of information, but we will continue to train you and prepare you for an amazing summer. There will be a written test on this information, so please review it carefully.

Camp is a place where campers experience the Gospel through friends and adventure, but it is also a place where our staff can do the same. This will be a summer of challenges, growth, friendship, and fun! We can't wait to support you through it!

We are praying for you, and we will see you soon!