

Parks & Recreation Department



Standards of Care for Youth Programs

Parks and Recreation Department
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FLOWER MOUND YOUTH PROGRAMS

STANDARDS OF CARE

The following Standards of Care have been adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Flower Mound, Texas, to comply with Chapter 42 of the Texas Human Resources Code, specifically Section 42.041(b)(14) regarding an exemption for the Town of Flower Mound's Youth Programs, as defined herein. These Standards of Care are intended to be minimum standards by which the Town of Flower Mound Parks and Recreation Department will operate the Town's youth programs. The Youth Programs are recreational in nature and are not child-care facilities or day care programs.

General Administration

1. Organization

- A. The governing body of the Town of Flower Mound youth programs is the Town of Flower Mound Town Council.
- B. Implementation of the Youth Programs Standards of Care ("Standards of Care") is the responsibility of the Director of Parks and Recreation and departmental employees.
- C. These Standards of Care apply to all Youth Programs operated by the Department, including but not limited to: the Day Camp Program, Holiday Day Camp Program, and Spring Break Day Camp Program.
- D. Each Program Site will have available for public and staff review a current copy of the Standards of Care.
- E. Parents of participants may obtain a copy of the Standards of Care from the Town during the registration process or the Standards of Care can be accessed on the Town's website at: www.flower-mound.com/cac.
- F. Criminal background checks are conducted on all prospective Program Employees. If the results of a criminal background check indicate that a prospective Program Employee has been convicted of any of the following offenses, he or she will not be considered for employment:
 - (1) A felony or a misdemeanor classified as an offense against a person or family member.
 - (2) A felony or misdemeanor classified as public indecency.
 - (3) Any offense involving moral turpitude.

- (4) Any offense that, in the Director's sole opinion, would place the participants of the Youth Programs at risk.

2. Definitions

- A. **Camp Director:** A temporary Department employee who is assigned responsibility to implement and direct a Youth Program and oversee the Program Employees that are assigned to the corresponding Youth Program.
- B. **Community Activity Center or CAC:** Town of Flower Mound Community Activity Center located at 1200 Gerault Road, Flower Mound, TX, 75028, 972.874.7275.
- C. **Department:** Parks and Recreation Department of the Town of Flower Mound.
- D. **Employee(s):** Term used to describe people who have been hired to work for the Town of Flower Mound and have been assigned responsibility for managing, administering, or implementing some portions of the Youth Programs.
- E. **Parent(s):** This term will be used to represent one or both parent(s) or legal guardian(s) who have legal custody and authority to enroll their child(ren) in the Youth Programs.
- F. **Participant:** A Youth whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) have completed all required registration procedures and determined to be eligible for the Youth Programs.
- G. **Program Coordinator or Coordinator:** A full-time Department employee who has been assigned administrative responsibility for the Youth Programs and oversees the Camp Directors.
- H. **Program Employee:** A temporary Department employee who is assigned to work with participants of a Youth Program at a Program Site.
- I. **Program Manual:** Notebook of policies, procedures, required forms, and organizational and programming information relevant to Youth Programs.
- J. **Program Site:** The facilities and surrounding property where Youth Programs are held, consisting of, but not limited to, the Community Activity Center and Gerault Park.
- K. **Program Supervisor:** A full-time Department employee who oversees the Program Coordinator and operations of all Youth Programs.

- L. Director: Town of Flower Mound Parks and Recreation Director, or his or her designee.
- M. Town: Town of Flower Mound, Texas.
- N. Town Council: Town Council of the Town of Flower Mound.
- O. Youth: A school aged person between the ages of 6 and 13 as of the enrollment date of the Youth Program.
- P. Youth Programs: The Town of Flower Mound youth programs consisting of the Summer Day Camp Programs, Holiday Day Camp Programs, and Spring Break Day Camp Program. A single camp may be referred to as a Youth Program.

3. Objectives of Youth Programs

- A. To provide Youth with the opportunity of recreational activities, which may include sports, games, arts and crafts, education, dance, drama, special events, field trips, tournaments, etc.
- B. To provide an encouraging atmosphere by emphasizing the positive development of physical skills, emotional development, and growth of self-confidence.
- C. To provide a safe environment by promoting good health and welfare for all participants.
- D. To teach Youth how to spend their leisure time wisely in an effort to meet the emotional, physical, and social needs of the Youth.

4. Inspections/Monitoring/Enforcement

- A. The Town has established these Standards of Care in order to obtain an exemption from the State regarding the Youth Programs. Once the exemption is established, the State will not monitor the Youth Programs. These Standards of Care will be reviewed annually and brought before the Town Council for consideration, regarding any amendments recommended by the Director, and approval after a public hearing regarding the Standards of Care is held, pursuant to Texas Human Resources Code § 42.041(b)(14).
- B. A monthly inspection report will be prepared and submitted to the Program Supervisor by the Coordinator to confirm the Standards of Care are being adhered to.

- (1) Monthly inspection reports will be sent to the Director or his/her designee for review and maintained by the Town in accordance with applicable record retention policies.
 - (2) The Director or his/her designee will review the monthly inspection report and shall establish deadlines and criteria for compliance with the Standards of Care where failure to comply is noted.
- C. The Director or his/her designee will make visual inspections of the Youth Programs based on the following schedule.
1. Youth Programs operating during the summer will be inspected no less than twice during the Youth Program's summer schedule.
 2. Youth Programs, which operate during the regular Lewisville Independent School District school year, for two (2) weeks or less, will be inspected at least once during the Youth Program's schedule.
- D. Complaints regarding enforcement of the Standards of Care will be directed to the Coordinator. The Coordinator will be responsible to take the necessary steps to address the complaint and resolve the problem, if any. Complaints regarding enforcement of the Standards of Care and resolution of complaints arising under the Standards of Care will be recorded by the Coordinator. All complaints regarding enforcement of the Standards of Care where a deficiency is noted will be forwarded to the Director with the complaint and the resolution noted.

5. Enrollment

Before a child may be enrolled in a Youth Program, the parents must sign registration forms that contain the following information about the child:

- (1) Name, home address, home telephone number;
- (2) Name and address of parent(s) and contact telephone number(s) during Youth Program hours;
- (3) The names and telephone numbers of people to whom the child can be released;
- (4) If requested, a statement of the child's physical health, including a physician's signed statement detailing any special needs the child may have;

- (5) Emergency medical authorization, current shot records, and valid health insurance information;
- (6) Proof of CAC Membership or Non-Membership, when appropriate; and
- (7) A signed liability waiver.

6. Suspected Abuse

Program Employees will report suspected child abuse or neglect in accordance with the Texas Family Code. In a situation where an Employee is involved in an incident with a child that could be considered to be child abuse, the incident shall be immediately reported to the Program Supervisor. The Program Supervisor will immediately notify the Police Department and any other agency, as may be appropriate.

Texas State law requires the Employees of Youth Programs to report any suspected abuse or neglect of a child to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services or a law enforcement agency. Failure to report suspected abuse is punishable by fines up to \$1000 and/or confinement up to one hundred eighty (180) days. Confidential reports may be made by calling 1.800.252.5400.

A complete copy of the Texas Family Code regulations regarding child abuse can be found at www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/docs/FA/htm/FA.261.htm.

Staffing - Responsibilities and Training

1. Camp Director

A. Qualifications. A Camp Director must:

- (1) Consistently exhibit competency, good judgment, and self-control when working with Youth and other Town employees.
- (2) Interact with Youth with courtesy, respect, tolerance, and patience.
- (3) Successfully complete a course in first aid, CPR, and AED, in compliance with American Red Cross standards.
- (4) Pass a background investigation and testing for illegal substances.
- (5) Be mature, responsible, and able to complete duties with minimal supervision.
- (6) Communicate effectively with the public.

- (7) Possess a valid Texas driver's license.
- (8) Have previous experience in supervising Youth of varying age levels in a group setting and possess knowledge of recreational games, crafts, and activities.
- (9) Complete Town-mandated training.
- (10) Be at least eighteen (18) years of age.

B. Job Functions. A Camp Director shall endeavor to:

- (1) Direct and supervise Program Employees. Hiring and training of staff shall be the responsibility of the Coordinator with assistance from the Camp Director.
- (2) Complete and submit proper records, including Youth Program schedules, Program Employee schedules, accident/incident reports, and Participant attendance.
- (3) Schedule appropriate activities in accordance with the philosophy of the Youth Program and coordinate with the Coordinator to ensure appropriate reservations and transportation are secured in order to complete activities.
- (4) Maintain an orderly, clean and safe environment for the Youth while promoting a non-competitive program directed toward accentuating positive behaviors, physical development, and emotional growth.
- (5) Maintain supplies, equipment and all necessary documentation for the operation of the Youth Program.
- (6) Communicate with Parent(s) as necessary.
- (7) Conduct on-going evaluations regarding the Youth Program and implement approved recommendations as needed.
- (8) Provide reports to Coordinator on a weekly basis regarding Youth Program activities.
- (9) Know and follow all Town, Department, and Program Manual standards, policies, and procedures that apply to Youth Programs.

- (10) Ensure that Participants are released only to a Parent or an adult designated by the Parent. All Program Sites will have a copy of the Department approved plan to verify the identity of a person authorized to pick-up a Participant if that person is not known to the Camp Director.

2. Program Employees

A. Qualifications. A Program Employee must:

- (1) Consistently exhibit competency, good judgment, and self-control when working with Youth.
- (2) Interact with Youth with courtesy, respect, tolerance, and patience.
- (3) Successfully complete a course in first aid, CPR, and AED, in compliance with American Red Cross standards.
- (4) Pass a background investigation and testing for illegal substances.
- (5) Be mature, responsible, and able to complete duties with minimal supervision.
- (6) Possess a valid Texas driver's license.
- (7) Have previous experience in working with Youth of varying age levels in a group setting and possess knowledge of recreational games, crafts, and activities.
- (8) Complete Town-mandated training.
- (9) Be at least sixteen (16) years of age.

B. Essential Job Functions. A Program Employee shall endeavor to:

- (1) Promote a non-competitive, positive, image-enhancing environment for each Participant through the direction of fun, varied, and well-organized activities.
- (2) Directly lead activities using a method that will provide opportunities for the involvement of all Participants on an equal basis.
- (3) Exhibit enthusiasm for the activity to impart a feeling of excitement in the Participants.

- (4) Follow procedures for Youth Programs drop-off and pick-up, and preparation of accident/incident reports.
- (5) Follow guidelines for safety and storage of equipment and notify Camp Director regarding supply inventories.
- (6) Ensure safety of Youth at Program Site and on field trips.
- (7) Provide and adhere to Standards of Care.

3. Personnel Restriction

A person will not be employed as an Employee in a Youth Program if:

- (1) The person would be permanently barred from being present at a child care operation while children are in care under the Texas Administrative Code Title 40, Part 19, Chapter 745 (Licensing); or
- (2) The Director determines that, based on the criminal history and other relevant and credible information, the person poses a risk to the safety or health of participants.

4. Training/Orientation

- A. The Department is responsible to provide training and orientation to all Youth Program employees who work with children regarding their specific job responsibilities. Coordinator will provide each Camp Director with a staff program manual specific to each Youth Program.
- B. Employees must be familiar with these Standards of Care for Youth Programs.
- C. Employees will be trained in appropriate procedures to handle emergencies.
- D. Employees will be trained in Town, Department, and Program Manual policies and procedures applicable to Youth Programs.
- E. Employees will be required to sign an acknowledgment that they received the required training.

Service Standards

1. Appearance

- A. Youth Program shirts and name badges will be worn and clearly visible.

- B. The Town's dress code policy shall be adhered to at all times. Failure to comply with the dress code will result in an Employee being sent home.

2. Interaction with Parents and Participants

- A. Participants and Parents will be treated with respect at all times.
- B. Program Employees and Camp Directors will keep Parents continuously informed of activities and schedules. A weekly schedule will be distributed and copies will be kept with the daily sign in sheets.
- C. Staff will note details of behavior of Participants (accomplishments, discipline problems, general activities, etc.) and update Parents as much as possible.
- D. The Camp Director will listen to complaints and forward to Coordinator as appropriate. All complaints will be followed up within 24-hours if they are not resolved on site. All complaints must be recorded, including resolution, and forwarded to Coordinator.

3. Additional Staff Responsibilities

- A. Program Employees will monitor the sign in/out log at all times.
- B. Program Employees will spend 100% of their time actively involved with Participants and/or Parents.
- C. Program Employees will pick up the area used by their group after each activity.
- D. Prior to beginning work each day, all staff will check in at the appointed location for any messages, instructions, or information.

Operations

1. Staff/Participant Ratio

- A. Pursuant to Texas mandated standards, the maximum ratio of Participants to Program Employees will be 12 to 1. In the event an employee is unable to report to the Program Site, a replacement will be assigned.
- B. Each Participant shall have a Program Employee who is responsible for him or her and who is aware of the Participant's habits, interests, and any special needs, as identified by the Participant's Parent(s) during the registration process.

2. Discipline

- A. Program Employees will implement discipline and guidance in a consistent manner based on the best interests of the program participants.
- B. There must be no cruel, harsh or corporal punishment used as a method of discipline.
- C. Program Employees may use brief, supervised separation from the group if necessary. Participants will be informed of Youth Program rules.
- D. As necessary, Program Employees will initiate discipline reports to the Parent(s) of Participants. Parents will be asked to sign discipline reports to indicate they have been advised about specific problems or incidents.
- E. A sufficient number and/or severe nature of discipline reports as detailed in the program manual may result in a Participant being suspended or removed from the Youth Program. Parents will be contacted to pick up their Youth immediately.
- F. In instances where there is a danger to Participants or Employees, offending Participants will be removed from the Program Site immediately.
- G. Any person(s) creating a nuisance, causing a disturbance, or creating an unsafe environment at any Program Site will be subject to ejection from the site and possible arrest and legal action.

3. Programming

- A. Program Employees will attempt to provide activities for each group according to the Participant's age, interests, and abilities. The activities must be appropriate to Participants' health, safety, and well-being. The activities also must be flexible and promote the Participants' emotional, social, and mental growth.
- B. Program Employees will attempt to provide indoor and outdoor time periods, weather permitting, that include:
 - (1) Alternating active and passive activities; and
 - (2) Opportunity for individual and group activities.
- C. Program Employees will be attentive and considerate of the Participants' safety on field trips and during any transportation provided by the Youth Programs. Participants

must be counted before leaving the Program Site and before boarding the transportation to return to the Program Site.

- (1) During trips, Program Employees supervising Participants must have immediate access to Participant forms and emergency contact information for each Participant;
- (2) Program Employees must have a written list of the Participants in the group and must check the attendance frequently; and
- (3) Program Employees must have First Aid supplies, a guide to First Aid and emergency care available on field trips.

4. Communication

The Program Site will have a telephone to allow the Program Employees to be contacted by Parks and Recreation personnel or for making emergency calls.

5. Transportation

- A. First Aid supplies and a First Aid and emergency care guide will be available in all Youth Program vehicles that transport Youth.
- B. All Program vehicles used for transporting Participants must have available a 6-BC portable fire extinguisher in the vehicle, which must be accessible to the adult occupants.

Facility Standards

1. Safety

- A. Program Employees will inspect the Program Site daily to detect sanitation and safety concerns that might affect the health and safety of the Participants. A daily inspection report will be completed by Camp Director and kept on file by the Program Coordinator.
- B. Buildings, grounds, and equipment on the Program Site will be inspected, cleaned, repaired, and maintained to protect the health of the Participants.
- C. Program equipment and supplies must be safe for Participant use.
- D. Program Employees must have First Aid supplies available at the Program Site, during transportation, and for the duration of any off-site activity.

- E. Program Employees must have First Aid supplies and a guide to First Aid and emergency care readily available in a designated location.

2. Fire

- A. In case of fire, danger of fire, explosion, or other emergency, Program Employee's first priority is to evacuate the Participants to a designated safe area. Emergency evacuation and relocation plans will be posted within the Program Site.
- B. The Program Site will have an annual fire inspection by the local Fire Marshal, and the resulting report will detail any safety concerns observed. The report will be forwarded to the Director or his/her designee who will review and establish deadlines and criteria for compliance.
- C. Each Program Site must have at least one (1) fire extinguisher approved by the Fire Marshal readily available to all Program Employees. The fire extinguisher is to be inspected monthly by the Program Coordinator, and a monthly report will be forwarded to the Program Supervisor who will keep the report on file for a minimum of two (2) years. All Employees will be trained in the proper use of a fire extinguisher.
- D. Fire drills shall be conducted monthly.

3. Health

- A. Illness or Injury
 - (1) Participants shall have and maintain immunizations in accordance with those required by the Texas Department of Health for public school attendance according to age.
 - (2) Illnesses and injuries will be handled in a manner to protect the health of all Participants and employees. Parents will be notified in cases of illness or injury. Paramedics will be notified in the event of an injury that cannot be remedied through basic first aid. An accident report shall be completed for all injuries and forwarded to the Camp Director.
 - (3) An ill Youth will not be allowed to attend or participate if the Youth is suspected of having a temperature and/or accompanied by behavior changes or other signs or symptoms until a medical evaluation indicating that the Youth can return to the Youth Program.

- (4) Employees will follow the recommendation of the Texas Department of Health concerning the admission or readmission of any Participant after a communicable disease.

B. Program Employees will administer medication only if:

- (1) Parent(s) complete and sign a Medicine Dispensation Form that provides authorization for Employees to dispense medication with details as to time(s) and dosage(s).
- (2) Prescription medications are in original containers labeled with the Youth's name, a date, directions, and the prescribing physician's name. Employees will administer the medication only as stated on the label. Employees will not administer medication after the expiration date.
- (3) Non-prescription medications are labeled with the Youth's name and the date the medication was brought to the Youth Program. Non-prescription medication must be in the original container. The Employees will administer non-prescription medications only according to label direction.
- (4) Medications dispensed will be limited to routine oral ingestion not requiring special knowledge or skills on the part of Program Employees.
- (5) Program Employees must ensure medications are inaccessible to Participants.

C. Toilet Facilities

- (1) The Program Site will have adequate indoor toilets and lavatories located and equipped so Youth can use them independently and Program Employees can supervise as needed.
- (2) There must be one (1) flush toilet for every thirty (30) Participants. Urinals may be counted in the ratio of toilets to Participants but must not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the total number of toilets.

D. Sanitation

- (1) The Program Site must have adequate light, ventilation, and heat.
- (2) The Program Site must have an adequate supply of water meeting the standards of the Texas Department of Health for drinking water and

ensure that it will be supplied to the Participants in a safe and sanitary manner.

- (3) Program Employees must see that garbage is removed from buildings daily.

Participants

1. General

- A. Participants must wear tennis shoes daily. Sandals or thongs are not permitted unless approved by Program Employees on certain occasions.
- B. Shoes must be worn at all times, unless the Youth is in the swimming pool or participating in an activity that requires shoes to not be worn.
- C. Youth must respect the Employees, the Program Site, Program Rules, and each other.
- D. Youth may not use the Youth Programs telephone unless it is an emergency with the permission of a Program Employee.