

Master's Camp

Handbook for Sponsors

All sponsors must receive a copy of this handbook and become familiar with its contents.

This handbook is intended to help make your job easier. Please share any suggestions that might help to make this a better tool for your use.

This Encampment operates under an annual permit issued by the Texas Department of Health. We are required to operate according to the requirements of the Texas Youth Camp Safety and Health Act. Our policies, rules, and procedures reflect those requirements.

SUPERVISION

Camp Directors, Leaders, and Sponsors are responsible for the enforcement of all policies and rules, and the supervision of their groups at all times

This Encampment operates as a closed campus and anyone leaving the camp grounds must have the permission of his Camp Director. Visitors must register with the Encampment, pay all fees, and their presence must be approved by the Camp Director. Visitors not directly involved in the program of the camp are discouraged.

Prescription drugs must be deposited with the Camp Nurse, and will be dispensed per prescription at the First Aid Station.

Vehicles must remain parked in designated areas except for special permission granted by the Encampment Manager at the request of the Camp Director.

Swimming in Pool and River must only be done during scheduled swim times and only when the lifeguards are present.

Violation of Encampment Policies and Rules may result in expulsion from the Encampment with no refund of any fees paid.

Users are responsible for any all damages to the Encampment property.

All facilities must be left clean and in order to avoid a cleaning surcharge. Pick up trash. Make sure all personal items are taken with you.

Emergency messages will be delivered to the Camp Director.

Personal messages will be delivered at meal times.

Familiarize yourself with the Emergency Procedures included in this booklet and posted in the dorm, and share needed information with the campers.

Only the Masters Camp Registration and Medical Information Form is acceptable for registration. Campers will not be allowed to remain on the grounds without this completed, signed form.

No one from your group should enter any locked building or facility. This will be considered trespassing.

All campers going to the First Aid Station must be accompanied by a sponsor.

HOW TO COOPERATE WITH GOD

1. You are at camp to win kids to Jesus Christ, and/or to build them up to serve Him. You are not on vacation. You are not here to be a babysitter, but a leader and a guide.
2. See your job for exactly what it is, a ministry. Being a sponsor means giving, giving, giving. If you do a good job being a sponsor, you will work harder than you do at just about any other time. Your day may start as early as 6:00 am and not end until very late. But no one will be prodding you to do it. You will be expected to be on time, to participate, to cooperate, but no one will be dogging your steps to make you do it. Let God minister through you this week.
3. Don't worry about your shortcomings. Put yourself in God's hands. Let Him begin to mold you into that servant of the Lord that you really want to be. God is able! Just get self out of the way!
4. Follow the schedule your Camp Director has given you. The Director and staff have a purpose for everything. Hundreds of details have been thought through in advance, so go with the plan and forget the complaining. People make the

camp effective, but people can be the biggest problem too. Some people specialize in creating problems, why don't you vow to the Lord to be a part of the solution.

5. Realize that you are part of a team. As part of the team at camp, you need to function together with the other leaders and sponsors in unity to accomplish God's purposes in young lives. Encourage and help one another. Stand together.

SOME IMPORTANT REMINDERS

1. Being a sponsor takes time. Plan for it. Make it happen.
2. Keep the confidence of the campers. Something may be humorous to you, but not to him
3. Maintain a cheerful objectivity. Getting emotionally involved will not help at all. You are the adult. Act like it.
4. Be careful in giving advice. Guide the camper to come up with solutions.
5. Expect patterns of behavior. For example, children often make little problems into big problems. Be a stabilizer.
6. Don't be afraid to consult other sponsors or leaders.
7. Encourage independence from you, dependence upon God.
8. Don't make promises to campers you cannot or should not keep.
9. Intentionally violating Encampment Policies and Rules is NOT part of the camping experience. Do not encourage it or allow it to happen.
10. Do not be alone with campers in a one on one situation. Always be within view of others.
11. Do not allow yourself to be put in possible compromising situations.

RESTRICTIONS

No alcoholic beverages, tobacco in any form, narcotics or illegal drugs of any kind are permitted on the Encampment grounds.

The Encampment is designated as a NON-SMOKING AREA.

No group may sell food or refreshments of any kind.

Speed limit for vehicles is 20 MPH.

Motorcycles, ATVs, scooters, and skateboards are prohibited.

Water pistols and the like are prohibited.

Shaving cream fights, etc. will not be allowed.

Firearms and fireworks are not allowed.

Guests may not bring pets on the Encampment grounds.

Only Encampment employees are allowed in the kitchen area of the Dining Hall.

Pay phones are provided for personal calls. Please respect others needs to use them.

Shoes must be worn outside the dorm on the Encampment grounds.

Swimsuits may not be worn in the Dining Hall or any meeting facility.

Swimming or wading in the river is strictly prohibited when no Encampment lifeguard is on duty.

Maintenance Area is off limits to campers and sponsors.

Challenge Course area is off limits except when supervised by Encampment personnel.

Do not throw trash on grounds.

Keep doors and windows to dorms closed.

Do not change settings on thermostats or tamper with covers.

Do not use fire extinguishers. In case of fire VACATE BUILDING IMMEDIATELY.

Do not iron clothes on carpet or mattresses.

Do not move beds in dorms or from dorm to dorm.

Do not take food or drink into meeting rooms.

Do not write or carve on furniture.

Staff quarters are off limits to campers and sponsors.

Do not take campers to remote areas of the Encampment after dark. DO NOT CROSS RIVER OR FENCES FOR ANY REASON.

Dress while at camp should meet the highest Christian ideals. No two piece swimsuits, short shorts, inappropriate or sleeveless shirts. Campers and sponsors will be asked to change if clothing draws unnecessary attention.

HOW TO BECOME A SPONSOR-FRIEND

1. Be ready to listen.
2. Talk on his level. Keep it simple.
3. Exhibit a positive attitude. It IS contagious.
4. Stay neutral. Listen in confidence.

5. Be honest and sincere.

6. Be prayerful.

REMEMBER, EVEN APPEARANCES ARE IMPORTANT

Child abuse in any form will not be tolerated. This could include improper touching, abusive or suggestive language, or striking a child. Avoid compromising situations. Children can mistake well-meaning attention as sexual misconduct.

According to Texas State Law, Child Abuse or Sexual Abuse, real or alleged, must be reported to proper authorities for investigation.

* Some extra Sponsor Guidelines *

The following are guidelines for all adults who attend the 2006 Master's Camp. If these guidelines are carefully noted and followed, our week (as far as rules, discipline, and our examples as Christian adults) will prove to be a portrait of Christ's love.

- 1) All adults attending, whether an official sponsor with your group or not, must carefully follow and encourage the following of all CAMPER POLICIES and SPONSOR GUIDELINES.
- 2) Suggested sponsor requirements bring adults who have completed one year in a College & Career or Adult Bible Study class. We are looking for adults who are growing in their faith. And can respond to teenagers in a mature Christ like way.
- 3) All sponsors must be listed on the "SPONSOR APPROVAL LIST" (Name and age) and signed by the pastor.
- 4) Please report any damage to camp facilities to the Housing Director, so it can be attended to.
- 5) Attend all scheduled activities (unless ill or accompanying an ill or injured teenager).
- 6) Sponsors are accountable for their group's attending all scheduled activities.
- 7) Please encourage your youth to take care of water and bathroom needs before all joint sessions (Worship, Fellowships, etc.). This will cause a distraction. All youth leaving a worship time or other joint session must be accompanied by an Adult sponsor from your Church.
- 8) Encourage cooperation between church groups sharing cabins (clean up, etc.).
- 9) Make sure that all campers (members & guests) understand the camp dress policy. When you think they understand, tell them one more time. We do not want to give Satan a victory over changing our attention and focus from the Kingdom's work to who is wearing improper or revealing clothing.