

# YOUTH PROGRAMS - STANDARDS OF CARE



# GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To provide basic childcare regulations for recreation activities operated by Arlington Parks, Recreation & Culture (APRC). This will allow the department to qualify for exemption from requirements from the Texas Human Resource Code.

Implementation: Oversight of any youth service programs will be the responsibility of APRC. Program Managers, Facility Managers, and Program Coordinators will supervise overall program components while Day Camp Directors will provide direct on-site administration.

These standards and regulations apply to on-going youth programs:

- Full Day Camp
- Winter Day Camp
- Spring Break Day Camp
- Teen Camp
- Day Off Day Camp
- After School Programs
- Preschool Playhouse
- Mini Camps

Each program location can print a hard copy by request. Copies of the Standards of Care will also be available on the APRC website and during the registration process as part of the Camp Guidelines.

## PROGRAM SITES:

### **East Library Recreation Center**

1817 New York Avenue

### **Beacon Recreation Center**

1100 Mansfield Webb Road

### **Cliff Nelson Recreation Center**

4600 W Bardin Road

### **Dottie Lynn Recreation Center**

3200 Norwood Drive

### **Elzie Odom Athletic Center**

1601 NE Green Oaks Blvd

## DAY OFF CAMP OBJECTIVES

1. To offer a program wide in scope and varied in activities of different recreational activities, sports, games, arts and crafts, education, drama, special events, field trips, tournaments, and more.
2. To provide a pleasant and memorable experience in a loving atmosphere.
3. To provide a safe environment always promoting good health and welfare for all.
4. To teach children how to spend their leisure time wisely, in an effort to meet their emotional, physical, and social needs.

## EXEMPTION STATUS

Once an exempt status is established, the Licensing Division of the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services will not monitor the recreational program. The Licensing Division will be responsible for investigating complaints of unlicensed childcare referring to other complaints to the municipal authorities or, in the case of abuse/neglect allegations, to the Arlington Police Department.

## STANDARDS OF CARE REVIEW

Standards will be reviewed annually and approved by the City Council after a public hearing or after a public online posting for thirty (30) days is held to adopt an ordinance regarding Section 42.041 (b) (14) of the Human Resources Code.

Child Care licensing will not regulate these programs nor will they be involved in any complaint investigation related to the program.

Any parent, visitor, or staff may register a complaint by calling the Arlington Parks, Recreation & Culture Administration Office at 817-459-5474, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

# STAFFING

## DAY CAMP SUPERVISOR

### **ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:**

- Directs and supervises a day camp program for elementary aged children.
- Develops and implements a daily camp curriculum under APRC guidelines.
- Responsible for ensuring camp activities are conducted in a safe, cost effective, and professional manner.
- Responsible for procurement of camp supplies, equipment, and food items.
- Maintains established camper to staff ratios.
- Interacts with participant, parents, staff, and supervisors to provide a high quality program.
- Meets weekly with other on-site day camp supervisors and the Program Coordinator to monitor program during summer.
- Supervises a staff of 5 to 30 day camp leaders.
- Must be able to pass the Motor Vehicle Driver's Check as managed by Workforce Services in order to operate a city vehicle.

### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Must be mature, responsible, and able to complete duties with minimal supervision.
- Must be able to communicate well with the public, and skilled at interacting with children.
- Must be skilled in supervising children of varying age levels in a group setting.
- Must possess or obtain proof of First Aid and CPR certification prior to start of summer camp.
- Must have a valid driver's license from state of resident.
- Must complete any departmental day camp staff training requirements.
- Preference given to previous experience supervising children in a day camp setting.
- Preference given to previous experience supervising staff.
- Prefer completion of at least two (2) years of college.
- Must pass city preemployment requirements prior to hiring, including a criminal background check.

## ASSISTANT DAY CAMP SUPERVISOR

### **ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS**

- Assist in directing and supervising a day camp program for elementary aged children.
- Responsible for ensuring camp activities are conducted in a safe, cost-efficient and professional manner.
- Responsible for all camp related record keeping.
- Maintains established camper to staff ratios.
- Interacts with participants, parents, staff, and supervisors to provide a high quality program.
- Assists in supervising a staff of 5 to 30 day camp leaders.
- Must be able to pass the Motor Vehicle Driver's Check in order to operate a city vehicle.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Must be mature, responsible and able to complete duties with minimal supervision.
- Must be able to communicate well with the public, and skilled at interacting with children.
- Must be skilled in supervising children of varying age levels in a group setting.
- Must possess or obtain proof of First Aid and CPR certification prior to start of summer camp.
- Must have valid driver's license from state of residence.
- Must complete any departmental day camp staff training requirements.
- Preference given to previous experience supervising staff.
- Preference given to previous experience supervising children in a day camp setting.
- Prefer completion of at least one (1) year of college.
- Must pass city preemployment requirements prior to hiring, including criminal background check.

## DAY CAMP LEADER

### **ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:**

- Implements and monitors a day camp program for elementary aged children.
- Supervises and interacts with camp participants in a wide variety of recreational activities.
- Responsible for ensuring daily camp activities are conducted in a safe, professional manner.
- Responsible for communicating needs to camp supervisor.
- Responsible for interacting with camp participants, parents, and supervisors to provide a high quality program.
- Responsible for maintaining facility appearance during and after camp activities.
- Responsible for reporting any incidents to camp supervisor.

## **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Must be mature, responsible and able to complete duties with minimal supervision.
- Must be able to communicate well with the public, and skilled at interacting with children.
- Must be skilled in supervising children of varying age levels in a group setting.
- Must have or obtain a First Aid and CPR certification prior to start of summer camp.
- Prefer a valid driver's license from state of residence.
- Must complete departmental day camp staff training.
- Must pass city preemployment requirements prior to hiring, including criminal background check.
- Knowledge of recreational games, crafts, and activities.
- Prefer some college.

## **OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

- Staff must complete the mandatory training program that consists of eight (8) hour of training, in addition to planning hours with site staff prior to the start of summer camp. This training includes a departmental orientation, customer service, behavioral issues and discipline, as well as practical skills on activities for children to include games, songs, crafts, and sports.
- Staff must complete two (2) hours of approved Child Safety Sexual Abuse Prevention training prior to the start of summer. If hired midsummer, staff must complete the training before leading a group of children alone.
- Staff must complete the Run, Hide, Fight intruder alert lock-down protocol training.
- Staff must exhibit competency, good judgment, and self-control throughout the duration of camp.
- Staff should relate to the children with courtesy, respect, acceptance, and patience.
- Staff will be evaluated at least once before the completion of the program, and visited with before the program is over to discuss any areas that should be addressed to insure employment in a following camp.
- Staff shall not abuse or neglect children.

## **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK**

Criminal background checks will be conducted on prospective day camp and after school employees. Applicants may be disqualified if they have a job-related criminal conviction.

## **DRUG TESTING**

A prospective employee will be subject to a drug test prior to hiring. Positive drug results may exclude an applicant from employment.

## **STAFFING RATIOS**

The staff ratio will be one staff member per 15 children, ages 5 to 15.

## **FACILITY STANDARDS**

Emergency evacuation and participants relocation plans will be posted at each facility. Program employees will inspect sites frequently for any sanitation or safety concern. These concerns should be passed on to the Facility Manager. Each camp must have a fully stocked and up to date first aid kit. This shall be checked and stocked on a weekly basis by the Facility Manager or designee. It shall include bandages, first aid cream, rubber gloves, alcohol wipes, cold packs, gauze, tweezers, and scissors. In a situation where evacuation is necessary, the first priority of staff is to make sure all participants are in a safe location.

Program sites will be inspected annually by the Fire Marshall. Each Facility Manager is responsible for compliance with Fire Marshall's directives. The recommended number of fire extinguishers shall be inspected quarterly and available and "primed" for use. Emergency drills should be conducted periodically during the summer camp.

Prescription medication will only be distributed with written parental consent. Prescription medications shall be left with staff in their original container, labeled with the child's name, date, directions, and physician's name. Medication shall be dispensed only as stated on the container and not past the expiration date. Non-prescription medicine with the child's name and date on the container may be brought if in the original container. Non-prescription medicine will only be administered with written consent from parent or legal guardian. All medications, prescriptions or non-prescription, will be given to the child at the appropriate time as indicated by the parent. Only medications that can be self-administered by the child will be allowed in the camp program unless directed by the Arlington Fire Department or Emergency Management team.

Each indoor site shall have adequate indoor toilets and lavatories located such that children can use them independently and program staff can supervise as needed. There shall be one flush toilet per 30 children. Outdoor sites shall provide portable

toilets based on number of children attending each day. Hand wash sinks shall be provided based on one sink per 30 children. All participants must be fully capable of all essential toiletry and hygiene needs in order to be registered for the camp programs.

All participants must wear appropriate footwear daily. Sandals and “flip flops” will be allowed only in swimming pool areas.

## STAFF SERVICE STANDARDS

This information will be provided to each staff as a part of the day camp manual. Camp staff shirts, appropriate bottoms, and appropriate footwear are to be worn at all times. City issued employee ID's should be worn and clearly visible.

Camp participants and parents will be treated with respect at all times. Camp staff will take it upon themselves to resolve complaints. Do not refer a customer to another staff person. If you are unable to resolve the complaint on the spot, take the customer's name and phone number, investigate complaint on the spot, and then follow up with the customer. An email, note or survey form should be filled out whenever a complaint or compliment is received. Camp staff will keep parents informed of camp activities. A weekly schedule will be available the week prior to session and extra copies will be kept with the sign in log daily.

Camp staff will note details of behavior of campers (accomplishments, discipline, problems, general activities, etc.) and update parents as much as possible. Camp staff will monitor the sign in/out log at all times. Camp staff shall clean rooms after each activity. Floors will be swept or vacuumed, chairs stacked, mirrors cleaned, and supplies put away. This is extremely important due to the fact that rooms are used throughout the day by other groups. Camp staff will dedicate their on-time duty to campers and/or parents to ensure a meaningful and pleasant experience. Prior to working with campers, camp staff will check messages for the day.

A Certified Lifeguard will be present at all times when staff or program participants are in or around any pool or aquatic center. A Certified Lifeguard with Water Front Certification will be present at all times when staff or program participants are in or around any open body of water such as Lake Arlington or Lake Viridian,. This includes but not limited to kayaking, paddle boarding, canoeing, sailing, and fishing.

## OPERATIONAL ISSUES

Emergency phone numbers are kept at the front desk of the facilities, as well as with the Day Camp Supervisor on field trips. Those numbers include emergency services. A Day Camp manual is given to each Day Camp Supervisor, Assistant Day Camp Supervisor, Day Camp Leader, and full-time Program Coordinator. The manual addresses the following items:

- Discipline issues
- City rules and regulations
- Forms that must be filled out
- Service standards
- Games/Activities/Leadership
- Ways to interact with children

Additional manuals will be located at each site for access by any staff member.

Electronic or manual sign in/sign out sheets will be used every day. Only adults listed on sign in/sign out release will be allowed to pick up children. An authorized person must enter the building, present appropriate identification and sign the sheet in order for staff to release the child. Emergency evacuation and relocation plans will be posted at each facility. Parents will be notified regarding planned field trips and provided the required release forms. A secured emergency network digital form will be required for each camper which includes:

- Child's name, birth date, home address, telephone number, physician's phone number and address, and phone numbers where parents/emergency contacts may be reached during the day
- Name, driver's license and telephone number of person to whom the child can be released
- Field trip release form, as needed
- Swimming ability and personal flotation device expectation according to parent/guardian
- Liability waiver
- Parental consent to distribute medication, medical information, and release participant

Staff shall immediately notify the parent or other person authorized by the parents when the child is injured or has been involved in any situation that placed the child at risk. Staff shall notify the parent or authorized persons of children in the facility when there is an outbreak of a communicable disease in the facility that required reporting to local health officials and Tarrant County Public Health. Staff must notify the parents of children in a group when there is an outbreak of lice or other infestation in the group.

## DISCIPLINE

Discipline and guidance of children must be consistent and based on an understanding of individual needs and development. There shall be no harsh, cruel, or unusual treatment. Corporal punishment will not be tolerated in any form. Children shall not be physically disciplined, i.e. shaken, hit, or have anything put in their mouth as punishment. Children shall not be humiliated, yelled at, or rejected. Children shall not be subjected to intimidating or profane language. Punishment shall not be associated with food.

Staff may use brief, supervised separation from the group if necessary, but staff shall not place children in any room with the door closed. Incident reports will be filled out on any disciplinary cases, and information is to be shared with parents when picking up the child or sooner, if necessary.

Continued disciplinary problems may result in participant being asked to leave the program. Children who show patterns of endangerment of themselves, other participants, or staff will be asked to leave the program in the direct company of a parent or guardian.

## ILLNESS OR INJURY

Participants shall have and maintain immunizations in accordance with those required by the Texas Department of State Health Services for public school attendance according to age.

Parents shall be notified immediately in cases of illness or injury involving their child or children. An ill child will not be allowed to participate if the child is suspected of having a temperature and/or observed behavior changes or other signs or symptoms until medical evaluation indicated that the child can be included in activities.

In the event an injury cannot be administered through basic first aid, staff will call 911. When an injury occurs, an incident report shall be filled out immediately. The form shall be filled out completely with the original file sent to the Division Manager's office and a copy kept in the Day Camp files.

## GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR CHILDREN

As a part of the Day Camp manual, staff will be given the following information:

- A child is not allowed to use the phone unless it is an emergency. In this case, Day Camp staff should make the call for the child.
- Children must stay off any elevated surfaces (tables, counter tops, etc.)
- Children should walk in the building. Running is permitted only in designated areas.
- Bouncing and throwing balls is permitted only in authorized areas.
- Active games using equipment that can cause damage to window, shades, lights, and ceiling must be played only in the gym.
- Children must respect staff and each other.
- Children must wear appropriate footwear at all times.
- Children must be closely monitored and not allowed to mix with the general public. You must know where each and every child is at all times.

## ACTIVITIES

Activities for each group will be planned according to the participant age, interest, and ability. The activities should be flexible and promote social and education advancement. A weekly calendar of activities will be posted for parents the Sunday prior to that week of camp. When taking field trips, staff will:

- Count everybody before they leave the program site as well as prior to leaving the field trip site.
- Carry medical information on each child and necessary medications with them on the trip.
- Carry a first aid kit.
- Carry a cellular phone for emergency use.
- Encourage participants to wear camp shirts so they are easily identifiable.

## MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT

Standards of Care established by the City of Arlington will be monitored and enforced by city departments responsible for their respective areas as identified:

- Health and safety standards will be monitored and enforced by the city's Police, Fire, and Code Compliance Departments.
  - Staff performance/behavior and program function will be monitored and enforced by Arlington Parks, Recreation & Culture.
- The Programs Managers shall visit each site on a weekly basis for an informal inspection of the programs. Facility Managers and

Program Coordinators are responsible for informally visible, checking the camp activities daily. When this staff is not available, another full-time staff person will be assigned for daily checks.

## **REPORTING OF SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF A MINOR**

If a person, including any member of camp staff, a camp counselor, or camp supervisor has cause to believe that a minor has been or may have been abused or neglected while at the Camp, then that person shall immediately make a report to one of the following agencies:

- Any local or state law enforcement agency
- The Department of Family and Protective Services Abuse Hotline, which may be contacted at (800) 252-5400 or through the secure website
- The Department of State Health Services' Policy, Standards, and Quality Assurance Unit by phone at (512) 834-6788, by fax at (512) 834-6707, or by email at PHSCPS@DSHS.Texas.gov

If a person making a report in accordance with the above paragraph has not already identified the Department of State Health Services as part of such a report, the person shall also immediately notify the Department of State Health Services' Policy, Standards, and Quality Assurance Unit by phone at (512) 834-6788, by fax at (512) 834-6707, or by email at PHSCPS@DSHS.Texas.gov

The City is prohibited against taking any adverse employment action against an employee who reports suspected child abuse or neglect in good faith. "Adverse employment action" means an action that affects an employee's compensation, promotion, transfer, work assignment, or performance evaluation, or any other employment action that would dissuade a reasonable employee from making or supporting a report of abuse or neglect.

Questions about these Standards of Care should be directed to:

**Courtnei Anderson, Aquatics Manager**

Arlington Parks, Recreation & Culture  
101 W. Abrams Street, 2nd Floor, Ste. 200  
Arlington, TX 76010  
817-459-5481  
Courtnei.Anderson@ArlingtonTX.gov

**Greg Guse, Athletics Manager**

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