The Eastern Annual Conference of The Southern Methodist Church
Child Abuse Prevention Policy and Prevention Manual
Camp Summers & Manget - Camp Three Forks Trail

The purpose of the following policies is to create an atmosphere in the camp program that will bring honor to the Lord Jesus Christ and that will bring campers to a closer relationship to Christ. It is the desire of the camp program to maintain a safe, secure, and loving place for campers and camp workers.

The Eastern Conference Camp Program will not tolerate abuse or neglect. For the protection and safety of our children and workers, all people who participate in church-sponsored activities with children are required to comply with the guidelines provided in this manual.

APPLICATION FOR WORKERS:

1. The Annual Conference Youth Director, Camp Director(s), and Program Director(s) are required to have a nationwide criminal background check.

2. All workers must submit an application that gives the Youth Director or Camp Director the permission to run a background check. Before signing the application the applicant must read and understand all policies of the camp program. They understand that if camp policies are broken they will be asked to leave the camp immediately.

3. Volunteer workers must submit to a state background check.

4. All new camp workers must submit three references on the application. The references cannot be relatives.

5. Rescreening Requirements:

    a. The background check must be rerun for any workers who have not been active within one year.

    b. Every five years a background check must be rerun.

    c. The Preventing Youth and Child Sex Abuse video should be reviewed annually.

    d. A Statement of Faith must be signed annually.

POLICIES FOR CAMP WORKERS:

1. Adult Workers must be eighteen and out of high school for one year to work at teen weeks and events.

2. Junior Workers are ages fourteen to seventeen.

3. The camp director must know the workers at least one year before they can work at camp.

4. The following would prevent a person from working with the Eastern Conference Camps:

    a. Any crime against children. No exemptions will be granted.

    b. Any sex crime of any type. No exemptions will be granted.

c. Any felony convictions. Exemptions require the approval of the Youth Director.

d. Exemption reports must be filed with the Vice-President of the Eastern Annual Conference.

5. Workers are never to be one on one with a camper unless they are counseling the camper. At this time they should not be in a secluded place, but should be visible to other workers

6. The campers are asked to wear modest clothes. Those who do not abide by camp policies concerning their clothing will be asked to leave. Therefore, workers must abide by the same rule.

7. The boundaries between girls and boys cabins must always be kept. Those who break these boundaries will be asked to leave.

8. A significant incident report must be submitted for campers and workers for the following reasons: sickness, accidents, misconduct, and expulsion.

9. Driving Policies For Trips Off Camp

a. The program director must get the approval from the Annual Conference Youth Director for trips off of campgrounds.

b. The designated leader of the event must know each person designated to provide automobile, but, or van transportation to or from the camp.

c. The driver must:

1. Be at least eighteen years old.

2. Have a valid driver's license, qualified for the vehicle being operated.

3. Have proof of insurance.

4. Never be alone in vehicle with a child not his own.

d. The group must stay together to the event and back to the camp.

e. Rules of the camp apply when on trip.

13. Vehicles on Camp Grounds

a. Vehicles are to be parked in area designated.

b. Campers are not to ride on vehicles. When campers are transported they must have the proper safety restraints.

REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE:

If Camp Ministry receives an allegation of child abuse, it will respond with the utmost concern to the victim, parent, or other party making such an allegation. The accused will be treated with dignity and support. Without clear and convincing evidence to the contrary, Camp Ministry personnel will assume that such complaints are made in good faith. Persons making such complaints should have no doubt that the Camp Ministry takes them seriously and will take appropriate action. Because we believe the

campers are our most important concern, the Camp Ministry has adopted the following guidelines for reporting.

1. Treat each allegation of abuse seriously.

2. Assure the safety and protection of persons who have been harmed.

3. Pray for all persons who have been harmed.

4. Immediately begin documenting all procedures observed in handling the allegation.

5. Immediately notify the Youth Director and Camp Director. They will initiate an internal investigation of the allegations.

6. Immediately notify the appropriate state office of the allegation.

7. Immediately notify the parents.

8. Immediately notify the camp's insurance company.

9. The accused person must be temporarily relieved of his or her duties until the investigation is concluded. Treat the accused with dignity and support.

10. Do not confront the accused until the safety of the camper is secured.

11. If the media contact camp about a pending allegation, they should be referred to the Camp Director. Only the Camp Director or his designee should make comments about the allegations. A prepared text should be made only after consultation with camp's attorney. The privacy and confidentiality of all involved shall continue to be of primary concern.