

## Safe Sanctuaries Policy for Blue Lake United Methodist Camp

### **Statement of Covenant:**

Blue Lake is committed to demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ so that each person will be "...surrounded by steadfast love, ...established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal."

### **Blue Lake's Mission Statement:**

To Make Disciples for the Transformation of the World While Connecting Them to God's Creation

## **Definitions, Standards, Criteria, Responsibilities, and Training Requirements**

### **Definitions**

**Authority figure** is a person who is the primary leader of any youth, children, or at-risk or vulnerable adult activity and such person is required to be twenty-one (21) years of age or older.

**Assistant** is a person who gives help to and is directed by an authority figure in the course of any youth, children, or at-risk or vulnerable adult activity including, but not limited to, volunteers, interns, and camp counselors.

**Adults** are all persons who have attained the age of majority (19 years in Alabama).

**Floater** is an adult who acts as an assistant to an authority figure to monitor covered activities or events in order to comply with the two adult rule.

**Children** are all persons from infants through the fifth or sixth grade, as determined by each local church in order to conform with grade-level practices of its local area schools regarding classifications of elementary schools and middle or junior high schools.

**Youth** are all persons in the sixth or seventh grade through the twelfth grade, as determined by each local church in order to conform with grade-level practices of its local area schools regarding classifications of middle or junior high schools and high schools.

**Vulnerable Adults** are adults with physical, mental, or developmental impairment or disability.

### **Standards**

## **Background Checks**

Blue Lake United Methodist Camp shall obtain background checks that are a multi-state criminal and sexual offender check based on social security number. All persons serving with children, youth, or at-risk or vulnerable adults shall be checked annually, at minimum.

## **Minimum Age**

Authority figures are defined as the **primary** leaders of youth and children's, or at-risk, vulnerable adult activities. Included are the Camp Deans, the Program Director, and other adults in charge of a specific camp. An authority figure must be a minimum of 21 years old. Assistants must be at least 19 years old and this includes all summer camp and special event counselors and staff, both paid and volunteer.

## **Two Adult Rule**

A minimum of two adults – non-related, i.e. not married to one another - will be utilized in all programming with children & youth. In addition, a floater (adult not assigned to a specific task) may be available to observe and/or assist where needed.

## **Adults in Cabins or Rooms**

All adults in the cabins or rooms must be the same gender as the campers in their care. Adults are not to share beds with campers or be alone with a camper in a room.

## **Open Door**

No adults are allowed to be in a room alone with a child. If a confidential conversation needs to happen it should be done in a public area or with an open door.

## **3 Buddy Rule**

NO child is to go anywhere on camp without at least 2 buddies. One buddy must be an adult when traveling farther than the specific camp (Oakwood, Pinewood, and Dogwood) where you are staying.

## **Bathroom Policy**

If a child needs to go to the bathroom during an activity, we will use the 3 Buddy Rule. Meaning, a child must have 2 buddies go with them. While you may be asked to monitor bathroom breaks (i.e. watchful eye in direction of bathrooms), **do not** escort a child to the restroom by yourself. If there is a medical emergency, ask another adult to escort the child with you. There should never be a child and adult alone together in the bathroom. Adults should always change clothes in a private area (bathroom stall, etc.)

## **Accident/Incident Reporting**

Should a child require medical attention during camp, please alert a Blue Lake Summer Staff member immediately for primary First Aid. A Camp Nurse will be available to dispense meds &

for anything other than minor injuries. The Camp Dean should be informed as soon as possible of any required medical attention. The BL Camp Program Director and/or Executive Director will be notified if an injury or illness is severe (blood, broken bone, required hospital visit, allergic reaction, etc.)

### **Medication/Medical Assistance**

**The Camp Nurse will dispense ALL medications** - Prescribed or OTC. These must be logged for the protection of the child, administer, and camp. Blue Lake staff members are equipped with First Aid kits for bites, scrapes and minor bumps & bruises. Every camper, including Adult Volunteers, must have a medical form on file with the Camp.

### **Response Plan on Crisis**

If a crisis does happen then it must be passed to the camp dean and then the camp dean to the Program Director and then to the Executive Director. The Executive Director will be the contact person in a case where contact needs to be made with the parents or the media if necessary.

### **Mandatory Reporting**

Blue Lake staff, Deans, and adult volunteers are required by law to report any suspicion of abuse to the proper authorities. If abuse is suspected or if a child discloses to any adult at camp that they have been abused, that adult must gather as much information as they can and provide a written document to the Program Director who will report to the necessary authorities.

### **Training**

All staff and volunteers that are serving children, youth, or at risk adults are required to have at least annual training in regards to this policy.

### **Safe Sanctuaries Procedures protect everyone.**

The AWF Conference Safe Sanctuaries Policy is in place and enforced to protect the children and youth in our care and the adults in charge. We all benefit from being mindful of these procedures.