



# Effective Camper Supervision

---

## Tri County Younger 4-H Camp

Doug Hovatter, WVU Associate Professor and 4-H Agent





# Today we will...

---

- Go over our mission and objectives
- Discuss and learn effective ways to supervise campers
- Participate in group activities
- Have fun!





## Our Mission...

---

The 4-H Camping Program of the West Virginia University Extension Service will provide youth with the opportunity to acquire knowledge, develop life skills and form values that enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members to society.



In order to meet our mission,  
we must remember...

---

That all campers, no matter the  
age, must have effective  
supervision while attending 4-H  
camp.





## One of our main objectives...

---

Is to provide participants with a safe and secure environment both physically and emotionally where they can participate in educational, recreational and social experiences that offer opportunities to understand and appreciate cultural diversity and tolerance for others.



We can meet this objective by...

---

Having effective camper supervision at  
Tri-county Younger 4-H camp.





## We must...

---

- Make sure that all campers are being supervised in an effective manner and all situations that may arise are being dealt with in a timely and appropriate fashion.
- Realize that all campers need this supervision, it is not just for the younger campers.
- Understand that effective supervision not only helps them to understand boundaries, it also teaches them to take responsibility for their actions.



# How can we do this?

---

## Establish Camp Rules

- Campers and parents/guardians need to be made aware of the camp rules ahead of time. They should review the rules together and make sure that they understand them before attending camp.
- The parent/guardian as well as the camper should sign the camp rules stating that they understand them and will abide by them while attending camp.
- Go over the rules of the camp with the campers at the opening assembly.
- Post the rules around the camp and put them in the camp program.
- Make sure the rules are fair and cover all areas!



## Also...

---

- Remember that the Volunteer Counselors are the role models for the camp.
- Volunteer Counselors set the tune for entire week on how they act. If the counselors act out, then there is an excellent chance that the campers will also.
- Always remember, that the campers are always watching the counselors know matter where they are, the Council Circle, Classes, Assemblies, Meals, etc.
- Be a positive role model!
- Have a safe and fun week!





# Camper Supervision Policies...

- 1. Camper/Counselor Ratios-** use these ratios as guidelines for the camper to counselor ratio in your camp. Use these ratios in the cottages overnight to determine compliance with this standard for residential camping:

Camper Age	Adult Staff	Overnight Campers	Day Campers
4-5 years old	1	5	6
6-8 years old	1	6	8
9-14 years old	1	8	10
15-18 years old	1	10	12



# Camper Supervision Policies...

For campers with physical, medical or behavioral needs:

<b>Camper Description</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Campers</b>
Needing constant and individual assistance or supervision	1	1
Needing close, but not constant, assistance or supervision	1	2
Needing occasional assistance	1	4
Needing minimal assistance	1	5



# Camper Supervision Policies...

---

- Adult counselors must be at least 21 years of age for an all-age camp or older camp.
- Adult counselors must be at least 18 years of age for a younger camp.
- These ratios are a minimum. Counties are encouraged to establish their own guidelines, taking their camp community into consideration.



# Camper Supervision Policies...

---

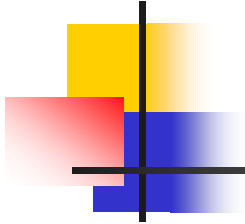
- 2. Campers are not allowed in cottages without counselor supervision**
- 3. Counselors are encouraged to work in pairs to supervise campers so that counselors are not alone with campers**
- 4. All firearms and ammunition and other shooting sports equipment are stored under lock and key**



# Camper Supervision Policies...

---

- 5. Security for residential camps must be provided by an appropriate all-night security person(s) who is awake around the camp grounds**
- 6. Camp registration forms should have the signature of a parent/guardian to indicate that they and their child understand the camp rules**
- 7. Each camp will provide in writing to local law enforcement and emergency response agencies so that they are aware of camp dates and attendance estimates, be sure to share information with them regarding camp security and safety**



Questions or Comments?



18 U.S.C. 707