

## **Safety at YMCA Turku youth camps**

### **Safety is a shared responsibility**

The physical, mental, social, and spiritual safety of campers is a fundamental prerequisite for the success of camps. The purpose of rules and guidelines is to create a safe environment and enable a memorable and positive camp experience for young people. Therefore, it is important that sufficient information is shared between the home and camp leaders.

## **Principles and rules**

### **General principles**

Participation in camps is voluntary for young people/children, so we hope that young people are not pressured to participate in camps.

### **General safety**

The basis of camp safety is a commitment to common rules. Therefore, it is important for parents to discuss at home with the young person that camp safety also involves following the rules. If a camper seriously breaks the rules, we will contact the guardian and discuss together with the guardian and the youth the conditions for continuing the camp.

The staff at the camps is responsible for the young people during the camps. They trust that everyone wants to work towards common well-being and safety. To ensure effective co-operation, each young person must have an adult contact person (parent or another adult designated by them) who can be contacted during the camp.

### **Camp Safety Information**

Upon arrival at the camp, the camp safety officer will provide the camp safety information as early as possible. This information session will go over the shared rules.

### **Responsibility for camp safety is mutual**

Camp leaders must have sufficient information about the camper and their health so that YMCA can ensure their safety during the camp period. The information on the personal data form is confidential and only shared with camp leaders unless otherwise agreed. Personal data forms are destroyed after camps.

### **Risk of infectious diseases**

A person cannot participate in the camp when they are ill. In camp conditions, possible infections can easily spread. A lot of responsibility for a safe camp lies with each participant. Attention is paid to hand hygiene. In case of illness, it is the responsibility of the parent to pick up the young person from camp if necessary.

### **First aid and medications**

Camps are equipped with supplies for immediate first aid. Camp staff are prepared to provide first aid.

All medications brought by campers must be reported on the personal data form. All drug allergies should also be noted on the form. An essential piece of information on the form is whether the young person can take the medication they use by themselves. If there is a need for special medication, the parent or the contact person specified in the form will be consulted.

Turku YMCA has insured campers for accidents. Any medical expenses or physical treatments, damage to personal belongings, or deliberate damage caused by the young person are the responsibility of the young person and the parent.

**Daily schedule and quiet time at camp**

Camps operate according to an agreed schedule. While at the camp, the common daily program is followed. Some need more rest and sleep than others. Therefore, quiet time prevails in the camp area from about 11 PM to 8 AM.

**Transportation**

There is no group transportation to the camp. Arrival at the scout boat harbor is by private means or public transportation. Boat transportation to the camp island is arranged from the harbor.

**Swimming, Rowing, or Canoeing**

Campers are not allowed to swim, row, or canoe alone or unsupervised. To ensure safety, these activities are supervised by camp staff or other trained leaders.

**Privacy**

No one is allowed to bully anyone, either mentally or physically, at the camp. If such behavior occurs, it will be addressed immediately. Privacy is also respected by not touching others' belongings, and no one is allowed to enter another person's camp room without permission.

At YMCA camps, participants hand over their mobile phones for safekeeping. Each person gets their phone back daily. If necessary, campers can be contacted through the camp leaders. All valuables and extra electronic devices should be left at home, as there is a lot of programming at the camp, and all personal property is the responsibility of the youth and the guardian.

Photos taken at the camp cannot be published without the permission of the people appearing in the pictures.

**Substances and energy drinks**

Possession and use of substances are prohibited at camps. Possession or use of substances will result in the immediate termination of the camp for the respective young person. In the case of possession of intoxicating substances, the leaders will inform the parent and the relevant authorities.

Smoking and possession and use of tobacco products (including snus, e-cigarettes) are prohibited at YMCA camps. If a young person is found to have tobacco products in their possession or if they are observed using them, the leaders will address the issue and contact the parents together with the young person. It is hoped that the issue of smoking and using snus could be discussed at home, especially if parents already know that their child smokes or uses snus.

Energy drinks and other caffeine products are not allowed at camp.

**Suitcase Rule**

For serious or repeated rule violations during the camp session, the consequence may be being sent home. In such a case, the staff will contact the guardian and arrange for the youth to be picked up and taken home.

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By following these principles, we can ensure the possibility of a safe and successful camp.