

Health Care / First Aid Care, Policies and Procedures

Ox Lake, WAPO, Luther Dell, Wilderness Canoe Base

All of our sites provide Health Care staff and other staff trained in first aid procedures. The level and focus of this training varies by site in providing the necessary level to support specific programs; Wilderness Canoe Base receives Wilderness First Aid training which has a focus on the emergency response necessary where you may need to make do with what you have and when professional care is some time away, our two camps in Wisconsin (Ox Lake & WAPO) must by state law have a minimum of American Red Cross – Emergency Response or equal certification.

Health Care or First Aid however you want to refer to this program support does many things in many places to help manage risks at camp. This process begins with the initial screening of incoming staff and campers making sure that all medications are collected, that information on the Health History form is current, review of health concerns and that the incoming general health of camper or staff is good. Their normal work routine begins immediately as they must record and prepare the evening medication for distribution quickly after registration. It seems like visits to First Aid begin quickly on the campers first day at camp so First Aid staff must be prepared for these visits; making decisions as their training allows and as Doctor approved Standing Orders dictate offering proper fixes for cuts, scrapes, aches and pains, itches, home sickness, and numerous others including some serious situations. Many times this requires consultation with parent or the local hospital Health Care providers in the camps' area. Many additional staff receives some level of First Aid certification as required in their position so that activities can be covered as needed. The camp Health Care department receives an annual visit from state Health inspector within the state they are located and every three years from the ACA.

What risks can be reasonably anticipated with Health Care / First Aid?

Medication dispensed improperly,
No First Aid coverage during camp activities,
Lack of necessary training,
Poor or incorrect diagnostic decisions

What have we done to manage these risks?

Medication dispensed improperly,

- Administration of Over the Counter Medications is covered by Standing Orders developed by local Doctor and reviewed annually by the same Doctor
- Prescription medications are collected from Campers and Staff and kept under lock in the First Aid facility of each camp and administered by First Aid staff only
- Prescription medications must come to camp in the original container with Dr. name, name of medication and administration instructions

- Medications must be listed on the Camper or staff Health History form with parent/guardian signature
- Policies and procedures for proper collection and administration of medications is covered in thorough training prior to campers arriving

No First Aid coverage during camp activities,

- All camp activities, especially those involving an elevated level of risk are always supported by a staff person (s) with First Aid certification. This coverage ranges from American Red Cross Basic First Aid and CPR to higher level of American Red Cross Emergency Response or at Wilderness Canoe Base, Wilderness First Aid.
- In the event of an emergency each site is supported by local professional First Responders and Ambulance & Fire/ Rescue services

Lack of necessary training,

- First Aid staff, special program staff and many general staff has varying levels of First Aid or Emergency Response certification provided by professional trainers.
- Site specific training for the camp First Aid staff is provided during the two weeks of staff training prior to each summer season. This camp provided training goes into areas not covered by the American Red Cross certifications; record keeping, medication collection, management and distribution, diagnostic options, calls to parents and, generally what the responsibilities of camp First Aid are.

Poor or incorrect diagnostic decisions

- The camp First Aid staff is expected to perform diagnostic decisions only to the level their training permits, in situations where this is not enough; each site has communication options with local hospital or other emergency agencies to be used when diagnostic advice is necessary for dealing with the needs of a specific camper or staff person.
- Parent or Guardian will also be involved when the diagnostic decision warrants
- First Aid staff is always encouraged to error on the side of caution and make the call to the parent or hospital for aid in making a decision for a specific situation.

If a camper has just a quick bout of something routine or a bug we know is going around, or if it is a scrape, bump, bruise, or twist that just needs some cleaning, ice, a Band-Aid and/or rest, we will not normally phone you.

We will phone you, in advance, if your child sees a physician for any reason. Sometimes especially if the problem is complex, the physician may wish to talk directly with you.

We will also phone you if a minor condition lingers for several days, if there is an acute episode of a chronic condition (e.g. severe allergy, asthma attack, diabetic crisis), involves a fever, or is an injury or sickness beyond the ordinary day-to-day first aid visit.