



6 ABUSE CONCERNS THAT KEEP CAMP DIRECTORS AWAKE AT NIGHT

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PRAESIDIUM

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Praesidium & Today's Presenter

- **Praesidium**
 - Latin – “to protect from harm”
 - National leader in child abuse prevention
 - Incorporated in 1992
 - Over 4,000 clients internationally
- **Zack Smith – Director of Marketing**
 - Conducts camp risk assessments and trainings
 - Adjunct Professor of Marketing, Dallas Baptist University
 - Stewardship Chair, Lake Arlington Baptist Church



What Keeps You Awake at Night?

1. Sexual abuse can't happen here...can it?
2. Why do camps attract abusers?
3. Is a background check enough to keep them out?
4. Will our camp recognize an abuser?
5. What is "normal" sexual activity between campers?
6. How can I protect my camp?



Sexual abuse can't happen here...

- 1 in 4 girls, 1 in 7 boys are abused by age 18.
- 10% of school children
- 300% increase in youth-to-youth abuse
- 40-50% of all child molestations are committed by juveniles
- 80% of abuse goes unreported



Why do camps attract abusers?

The APC Model

- Access
- Privacy
- Control



Is a background check enough?

- Most offenders do not have a criminal record.
- Criminal background checks are not always accurate.
- What kinds of checks are you completing?



Critical Components of an Effective Screening Process

- **The Screening Process Must:**
 - Encourage high-risk applicants to self-select out.
 - Screen applicants for the potential to abuse through reference checks and behaviorally based interview questions.
 - Track that screening requirements have been completed for all applicants.



Will our camp recognize an abuser?

Types

- Preferential offenders

- Situational offenders



Preventing False Allegations

- **Special Circumstances**
 - The “love struck” camper and crossing boundaries.
 - Counselors and Leaders-in-Training.
- **Prevention**
 - Develop policies.
 - Train staff on policies.
 - Respond to violations.



What is “normal” sexual activity between campers?

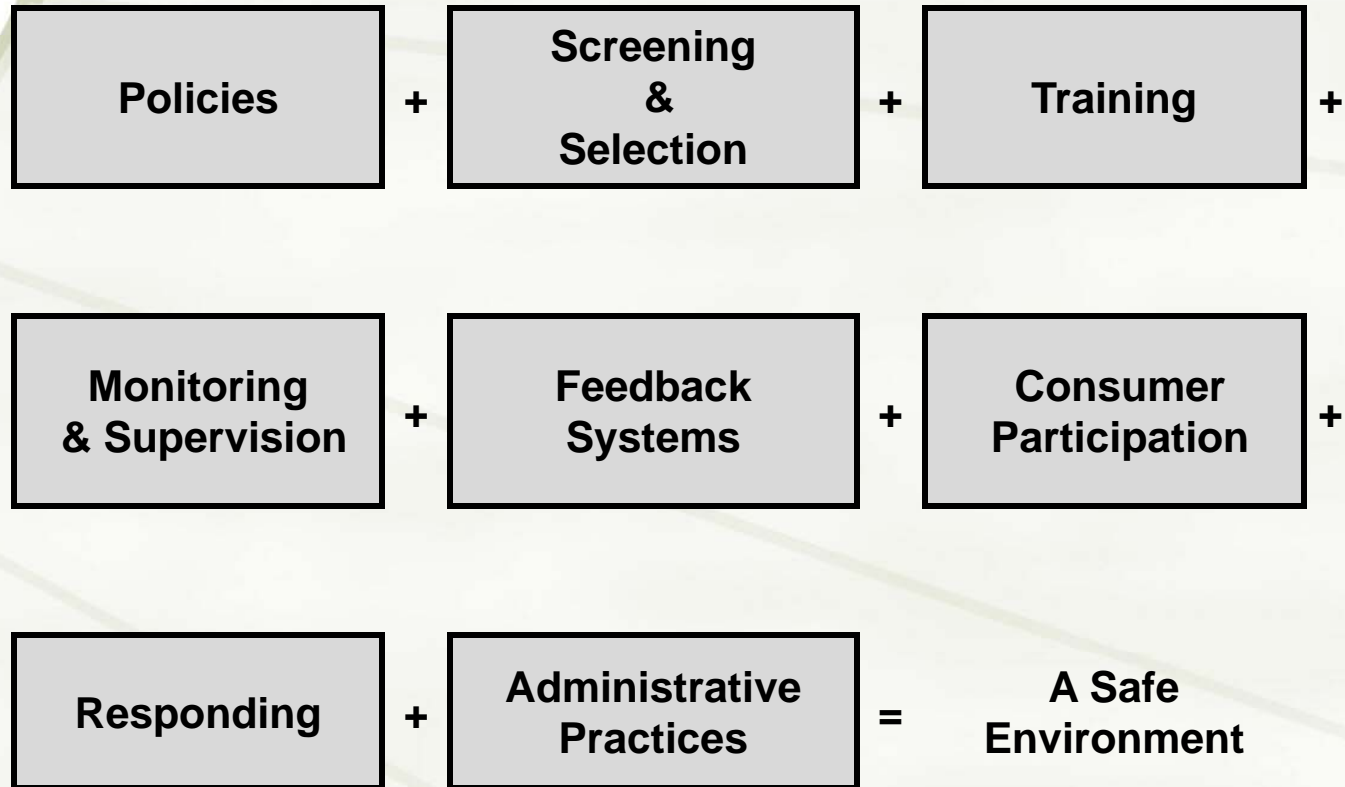
At camp, there is no such thing as “normal” sexual curiosity.

Create specific procedures for monitoring the following higher risk times and activities:

- Unstructured times and transition times
- Bathrooms and locker rooms
- Cabins and bunks
- Mixed age group activities
- Transportation



How can I protect my camp?





Introducing Camp Care

Specifically designed to keep your campers safe.

Members receive:

- Online Abuse Prevention Training
- Screening & Selection Toolkit
- Model Abuse Prevention Policies
- Telephone Helpline
- Potential Insurance Advantage





Contact Praesidium

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