

Camp Safety Training: Facilitator's Guide

Preventing Peer-to-Peer Abuse at Camp

Discussion Questions

- Where could peer-to-peer abuse happen at camp?
- How can we prevent it?
- What is the difference between peer-to-peer abuse and adult-to-child abuse?
- If you come across campers engaging in inappropriate sexual touch, what do you do?

Activity #1

Name of activity: Give Me Five

Length of activity: 10 minutes

By simply brainstorming the takeaways from the Preventing Peer-to-Peer Abuse at Camp training together, you can both encourage reflection and discussion, and also get a sense of staff learning styles and retention. This will give you a sense of what learning will need to be reinforced.

Objectives:

1. Staff will be able to articulate the difference between peer-to-peer and adult-to-child abuse.
2. Staff will be able to reflect on specific strategies for preventing peer-to-peer abuse.

Materials:

Markers, sticky note pads and large chart paper or white board located in front of group.

Instructions:

1. Break into small groups. Write five takeaways together (five minutes) – one on each sticky note.
2. The facilitator can prompt the groups by asking what they remember, what specific actions they would now take differently, and what they think are the most important lessons. It's a good idea to also ask how the role of lifeguard and camp counselor, or staff member, are different.
3. Each group shares sticky notes with the whole group. Write or have someone scribe on sticky notes what the group comes up with.

Activity #2

Name of activity: The Most Opportunistic Times

Length of activity: 30 minutes

Peer-to-peer abuse is often opportunistic, and the changing camp schedule naturally creates times when there may be more risk of opportunistic behavior. This training will help staff to understand how scheduling impacts risk, and to begin thinking about ways to counteract this challenge.

Objectives:

1. Staff will identify high risk times for peer-to-peer abuse.
2. Staff will begin strategizing ways to minimize that risk.

Materials:

Markers and large note paper, enough for one in each group.

Instructions:

1. Break staff up into groups of eight.
2. Have them brainstorm the following questions:
 - Where could peer to peer abuse happen?
 - How can we prevent it?
3. Have each group report out what they discussed with the rest of the group.
4. Add additional support and guidance from the leadership and other staff members.

Note: You can even make it a competition to see which group can brainstorm the most ideas.

Activity #3

Name of activity: Stumble Across

Length of activity: 30 minutes

Objectives:

1. Staff will understand what to do if they witness acts that may be peer-to-peer abuse.
2. Staff will practice taking notes and reporting incidents to leadership team.

Materials:

Note paper and pen for each group of four to five.

Instructions:

1. Break staff up into groups.
2. Give each group a scenario. (See below for an example. You can also make up your own.)
3. Have them practice what to say, how to address the situation, what notes they should take and how to report it to their supervisor.

Example Scenario:

Three campers are off playing under a makeshift fort they made out of their towels or bedsheets during free play/rest hour. A counselor come up and asks what they are doing and one of the campers says they were just playing. Another camper says it's called "doctor see doctor do." One of the campers has his shirt on backwards which wasn't that way earlier. How does the staff member respond to the situation?