

A P P E N D I X M

SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR MOSAIC CAMP LIFE



THE mosaic PROJECT®

Safety Guidelines for Mosaic Camp Life

(See also Mosaic's **FIRE SAFETY & EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN**)

1. Creek Safety:

- **Supervision:** Campers are never near creeks without adult supervision.
- **Swimming:** There is no wading or swimming in creeks at any time.
- **Footwear:** Wear close-toed shoes or sandals with deep tread when walking near creeks to prevent slipping at the top of bank or exposure to sharp objects.

2. Wildlife Interaction:

- **Observation:** Observe wild animals from a safe distance using binoculars or cameras. Do not approach or attempt to touch wild animals.
- **Feeding:** Prohibit campers from feeding wild animals, as it habituates them to human presence and lead to aggressive behavior. Store food securely to prevent wildlife from accessing it.
- **Avoidance:** Teach campers to respect wildlife by giving them space and not disturbing their natural behaviors. Avoid making loud noises or sudden movements that may startle or provoke animals.
- **Identification:** Educate campers about local wildlife species and their habitats. Teach them to recognize signs of wildlife presence, such as tracks, scat, or calls.
- **Safety:** Instruct campers on how to react if they encounter wildlife unexpectedly – back away slowly.
- **Reporting:** Encourage campers to report any sightings of injured, sick, or distressed wildlife to camp staff immediately. Do not attempt to handle or approach injured animals without proper training and authorization.

3. General Safety:

- **Communication:** Staff carry walkie talkies where there is no cell coverage.
- **Trail Etiquette:** Stay on designated trails and paths when hiking or exploring nature. Straying off-trail can disturb fragile ecosystems and increase the risk of getting lost.
- **Weather Awareness:** Monitor weather forecasts and be prepared for changing conditions. Dress in layers and pack rain gear or sun protection as needed.
- **Hydration:** Drink plenty of water throughout the day to stay hydrated, especially during outdoor activities in hot or humid weather.
- **Sun Protection:** Apply sunscreen with a high SPF rating and wear hats, sunglasses, and lightweight clothing to protect against sunburn and heat exhaustion.
- **Insect Safety:** Use insect repellent containing DEET or picaridin to deter mosquitoes, ticks, and other biting insects. Wear long sleeves, pants, and socks to minimize exposed skin.

- **First Aid:** Trained staff carry well-stocked first aid kits and administer basic first aid for common injuries such as cuts, scrapes, insect stings, or sprains.

4. **Environmental Stewardship:**

- **Leave No Trace:** Teach campers the principles of Leave No Trace ethics, including minimizing their impact on the environment by packing out trash, staying on designated trails, and respecting wildlife.
- **Litter Prevention:** Encourage campers to pick up litter and dispose of it properly in designated trash receptacles. Organize regular clean-up activities to maintain the cleanliness of campgrounds and surrounding areas.
- **Natural Resource Protection:** Educate campers about the importance of conserving natural resources such as water, soil, and biodiversity. Discuss the effects of pollution, habitat destruction, and climate change on ecosystems and wildlife.
- **Ecological Awareness:** Lead nature walks, wildlife observation outings, and educational workshops to foster a deeper appreciation and understanding of the natural world. Encourage campers to document their observations and share them with others.

Emergency Preparedness & Procedures:

- Please see **Mosaic's Fire Safety & Emergency Response Plan** (*Prevention, Training, Signage, & Evacuation Procedures*).
- **Please see Staff Manual:** Detail emergency and medical procedures and policies in the Staff Manual. Train staff in these procedures and policies bi-annually.
- **Emergency Contacts:** List emergency contacts including camp leadership, local authorities, medical facilities, and emergency services in the Staff Manual and post in camp offices and the infirmary.
- **First Aid Training:** Train camp staff in CPR, first aid, and wilderness medicine techniques to respond effectively to medical emergencies in outdoor settings.
- **Emergency Drills:** Conduct regular emergency drills to practice evacuation procedures.