

Expectations of Outdoor Ministries Volunteers

Put the physical, emotional and spiritual safety of campers, volunteers and staff first at all times.

Support all policies, procedures and guidelines of Pilgrim Hills, Templed Hills, Outdoor Ministries, and of the Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.

Make mature, responsible decisions in a timely fashion.

Create and maintain a Christian community within your event and the camp community at large.

Create and maintain open communication with site staff, other camp events and the other staff with your event (volunteer and/or paid).

Be flexible.

Be a positive role model for campers and each other.

Plan and execute superior, age appropriate programming during your event.

Create and implement a fair, consistent, age appropriate set of community guidelines (aka: rules), rewards and consequences.

Be a friendly adult, not an adult friend to any participant under age 18. Know and maintain appropriate boundaries.

Stay within your event's budget. If extenuating circumstances arise, please contact the Director of Programming for Outdoor Ministries.

Have all receipts, travel vouchers and In-Kind forms turned in to the Columbus office on or before September 30th.

Understanding Your Role

Event Director

What is an event director? This is the person or people who are in charge of planning and executing each camp event (ex.: Genesis).

He/She is responsible for:

- Making the best possible use of the event's budget.
- Acquiring any specific supplies.
- Recruiting volunteer counselors (in conjunction with the office of Outdoor Ministries' efforts).
- Remaining level-headed.
- Maintaining a positive, upbeat attitude.
- Understanding the developmental stage of campers; helping counselors and resource people to understand this as well.
- Knowing and understanding the curriculum.
- Communicating event needs to the site manager/program coordinator.
- Offering campers program choices.
- Supporting counselors (being the "bad guy," monitoring stress levels, giving breaks, etc.).

Counselor

Counselors are on the frontlines when it comes to campers. Their primary concern is the health, safety, happiness and well-being of each camper.

Each counselor is responsible for:

- Supervising campers in the cabins/lodges.
- Making each and every camper feel welcomed, respected and part of the group.
- Being the adult (making the mature decision, keeping your cool, taking the high road).
- Always having a time-filler at the ready (quick, non-competitive game, song, etc.).
- Treating each camper the same, avoiding favoritism.
- Report to the event director with any concerns, issues, behavioral problems.
- Establish and maintain fair, realistic cabin guidelines.
- Consistent enforcement of site and event guidelines.
- Being a positive role model – following rules, dressing appropriately, treating each person with dignity and respect.
- Having a conversation with each camper each day (at the VERY least).
- Maintaining a positive, upbeat attitude.
- Remembering that what he/she does is an extremely important function in camp.