

OM.12

CAMPERS IN PUBLIC AREAS

Sometimes you will be called upon to supervise campers in public areas – this may include the Gypsy trip to Silver Lake, a backpacking trip to a public trailhead, or a Trekker or Superpacker stop for treats at the Inn at the end of your trek.

Please remember that you are supervising other people's children and there are specific safety regulations you must follow, in addition to standard camp procedures. Please note the following:

- Camper to staff ratios must be maintained while in public (see your staff manual for all camper to staff ratios). No staff member will take a break while campers are in a public location.
- Any and all visits to public locations where campers may come in contact with non-camp personnel must be pre-approved by a director. No destination changes may be made enroute without a director's approval.
- A cell phone and walkie-talkie must be in the group's possession at all times. A stocked ROCK pack must also be in your possession.
- You must instruct your campers prior to all public interaction. Please share the following:
 - Do not approach non-camp persons unless it is to offer aid in an emergency
 - All interactions with non-camp persons must be reported to a staff member
 - Do not interact with non-camp persons alone; the buddy system applies both on and off camp property! This is true in public restrooms, too. Do not enter a public restroom alone, and do not leave your buddy in a public restroom alone.
 - Do not tell non-camp persons where camp is located, where you will be going, etc. Do not share any private information with a non-camp person, ever. Private information includes your phone number, address, last name, email address, etc.
 - Should anything appear out of the ordinary, remove yourself immediately. It is better to appear "rude" than to place yourself in a compromising or unsafe position.
- Standard missing camper procedures apply when off site. Please note the following, which also applies to a missing staff member:
 - Unit staff or unit leader makes a check of the immediate area.
 - Check with other girls to see if they know her location.
 - Check where she was last seen.
 - Keep looking. One staff member shall notify the camp director by phone. Give the camper's or staff member's name and what she was wearing when last seen.
 - The camp director will notify the camp nurse and begin noting the time. The camp nurse will pull the missing camper's/staff member's health form with emergency numbers.
 - Depending on the group's location, the camp director may assign unattached staff to report to their location to help supervise campers and to aid in search and communication efforts. The camp director will remain in camp.
 - If available, notify local adults in supervisory positions – store owner if applicable, campground host if in a public campground, local forest service personnel if near a station, etc.
 - If camper is not found within 20 minutes, sheriff will be notified by camp director and the Crisis Management plan will be initiated, including calling Girl Scouts of Northern CA.
 - All campers will be returned to camp. Additional staff will remain at the remote location and will follow emergency procedures as outlined by sheriff and search and rescue personnel. A headcount will be taken regularly of all remaining camp adult personnel.