



City of Denton Parks and Recreation Standards of Care 2023-2024

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Any questions related to Standards of Care should be addressed to the Rec Care Supervisor at (940) 349-8730.

CITY OF DENTON PARKS AND RECREATION STANDARDS OF CARE

The following Standards of Care have been adopted by the City Council of the City of Denton, Texas to comply with Senate Bill 212 as approved by the Texas Legislature during the 74th legislative session. The Standards of Care are intended to be minimum standards by which the City of Denton Parks and Recreation Department will operate the City's Recreational Care (Rec Care) Programs. The programs listed in this Standards of Care are recreational in nature and are not licensed daycare programs or childcare programs. The City of Denton's rec care/camp programs are exempt from licensing under Texas Administrative Code 745.115(3).

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

1. ORGANIZATION

- A. The governing body of the City of Denton Parks and Recreation Programs is the City of Denton City Council.
- B. Implementation of the Rec Care Programs Standards of Care is the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Department Director and Departmental employees.
- C. Rec Care Programs ("Program") to which these Standards of Care will apply are After School Action Site, Holiday Break Camps, Spring Break Camps, Kids Day Off, Teens' Day Off, Camp Discovery, Camp Conquest, Camp Journey, Camp Voyage, Camp Exploration, Super Kids, Counselors in Training, and Teen Summer Camp programs.
- D. Each Rec Care Program site will have available for public and staff review, a current copy of the Standards of Care.
- E. Parents of participants will be provided the website address of where a current copy of the Standards of Care is located.
- F. Criminal background checks will be conducted on prospective employees. No person with conviction, or who is under indictment, or is the subject of an official criminal complaint alleging violation of any of the crimes listed in the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Service's Day Care Center Minimum Standards and Guidelines Appendix II as same may be amended or a felony violation of the Texas Controlled Substance Act may be present while children are in care. An example of current Appendix II is attached as Exhibit A.

2. DEFINITIONS

- A. City: City of Denton.
- B. City Council: City Council of the City of Denton.
- C. Department: Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Denton.
- D. Rec Care Programs or Program: City of Denton Rec Care Programs consisting of After School Action Site, Holiday Break Camps, Spring Break Camps, Kids' Day Off, Teens' Day Off, Camp Discovery, Camp Conquest, Camp Journey, Camp Voyage, Camp Exploration, Super Kids, Counselors in Training and Teen Summer Camp programs.
- E. Program Manual: Notebook of policies, procedures, required forms, and organizational and programming information relevant to City of Denton Programs.

- F. Director: City of Denton Parks and Recreation Department Director or his or her designee.
- G. Program Manager: City of Denton Parks and Recreation Department full-time manager who has been assigned administrative responsibility for City of Denton Rec Care Programs.
- H. Recreation Supervisor or Coordinator: City of Denton Parks and Recreation Department full-time employee who has been assigned responsibility to implement the City's Rec Care Programs.
- I. Program Site: Area and facilities where City of Denton Rec Care Programs are held consisting of Denton Civic Center, Martin Luther King Recreation Center, Denia Recreation Center, North Lakes Recreation Center, and McMath Middle School.
- J. Participant: A youth/teen whose parent(s) have completed all required registration procedures and determined to be eligible for a City of Denton Rec Care Program.
- K. Parent(s): This term will be used to represent one or both parent(s) or adults who have legal custody and authority to enroll their child(ren)/teen(s) in City of Denton Rec Care Programs.
- L. Program Employee(s), Employee(s) or Staff: Term used to describe people who have been hired to work for the City of Denton and have assigned responsibility for managing, administering, or implementing some portion of the City of Denton Rec Care Programs.

3. INSPECTIONS/MONITORING/ENFORCEMENT

- A. A monthly inspection report will be initiated by the Supervisor or Coordinator of each Program to confirm the Standards of Care are being adhered to.
 - i. Inspection reports will be kept on record for at least three years.
 - ii. The Recreation Supervisor will review the report and establish deadlines and criteria for compliance with the Standards of Care.
- B. The Recreation Supervisor or Coordinators - will make visual inspections of the Program based on the following schedule:
 - i. Each After School Program site will be inspected bimonthly.
 - ii. The Holiday & Spring Break Camp Program will be inspected once during its holiday schedule; and Camp Exploration, Camp Voyage, Camp Discovery, Camp Conquest, Camp Journey, and Super Kids will be inspected twice during the summer break.
 - iii. Teen Camp Program and Counselors in Training will be inspected once during the summer break.
 - iv. The Kids' Day Off and Teens' Day Off will be inspected two times a year.
- C. Complaints regarding enforcement of the Standards of Care will be directed to the Recreation Supervisor. The Recreation Supervisor will be responsible to take the necessary steps to resolve the problems. Complaints regarding enforcement of the Standards of Care and their resolution will be recorded by the Recreation Coordinator. Serious complaints regarding enforcement of the Standards of Care will be addressed by the Program Manager and the complaint and resolution will be noted.

4. ENROLLMENT

- A. Before a child is enrolled, a parent must sign registration forms containing the child's:
 - i. name, address, home telephone number, email address;
 - ii. name and address of parents and telephone number during Program hours;
 - iii. the names of people to whom the child can be released;
 - iv. a statement of any special concerns, needs, or behavioral matters the child may have;
 - v. emergency medical authorization;
 - vi. proof of residency when appropriate; and
 - vii. a liability waiver.

5. SUSPECTED ABUSE

- A. Recreation Staff are mandated by law to report suspected child abuse or neglect in accordance with the Texas Family Code and to cooperate with authorities in investigating any suspected abuse or neglect. Any incidents requiring a report to CPS will also be reported to the Denton Police Department.

STAFFING - RESPONSIBILITIES AND TRAINING

6. REC CARE SUPERVISOR ("SUPERVISOR") QUALIFICATIONS

- A. Supervisor will be full-time, professional employees of the City of Denton Parks and Recreation Department and will be required to have all Program Employee or Coordinator qualifications as outlined in Section 10 of the document.
- B. Supervisor must be at least 21 years old.
- C. Supervisor must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or University or at least five (5) years of direct supervision of recreational activities related to children ages 4-15 years of age. Acceptable degrees include:
 - i. Recreation Administration or General Recreation;
 - ii. Physical Education; and
 - iii. Any other comparable degree plan that would lend itself to working in a public recreation environment.
- D. Supervisor must have five years of experience planning and implementing recreational activities.
- E. Supervisor must pass a background investigation including testing for illegal substances.
- F. Supervisor must have successfully completed a course in first aid and Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) based on either American Heart Association or American Red Cross standards. The supervisor must also complete a course in Defensive Driving.
- G. Supervisor must complete 10 hours of childcare training per calendar year.

7. SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Supervisors are responsible for administering the Programs' daily operations in compliance with the adopted Standards of Care.
- B. Supervisors are responsible to recommend for hire, supervise, and evaluate Specialist, Coordinators and Leaders.
- C. Supervisors are responsible to plan, implement, and evaluate programs.

8. PROGRAM COORDINATOR (“COORDINATOR”) QUALIFICATIONS

- A. Coordinator(s) will be full-time, professional employees of the City of Denton Parks and Recreation Department and will be required to have all Program Leader or Specialist qualifications as outlined in Section 10 of the document except for section 10A.
- B. Coordinator must have two years of experience planning and implementing recreational activities.
- C. Coordinators must complete 8 hours of childcare training per calendar year. Training must be completed prior to their start date of childcare programs and completed on an annual basis.

9. COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Coordinators are responsible to assist in the administration of the Programs’ daily operations in compliance with the adopted Standards of Care.
- B. Coordinators are responsible to assist in the recommendation for hiring, supervising, and evaluating Specialist and Leaders.
- C. Coordinators are responsible to assist in the planning, implementing, and evaluating programs.
- D. Coordinator’s will be required to provide all Program Leader or Specialist responsibilities as outlined in Section 11 of the document.

10. PROGRAM EMPLOYEE QUALIFICATIONS

- A. Program employees will be part-time or temporary employees of the Parks and Recreation Department.
- B. Program employees working with children must be age 18 or older.
- C. Program employees should be able to consistently exhibit competency, good judgment, and self-control when working with children.
- D. Program employees must relate to children with courtesy, respect, tolerance, and patience.
- E. Program employees must have successfully completed a course in first aid, CPR, and AED training based on either American Heart Association or American Red Cross standards. An exception can be made for no more than one staff person at each site, and that person shall successfully complete a first aid and CPR course within four weeks of starting work.
- F. Program employees must pass a background investigation including testing for illegal substances.
- G. Program employees must complete 8 hours of childcare training per calendar year. Training must be completed prior to the program employees’ start date of childcare programs and completed on an annual basis.

11. PROGRAM EMPLOYEE/STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Program employees will be responsible to provide participants with an environment in

which they can feel safe, can enjoy wholesome recreation activities, and can participate in appropriate social opportunities with their peers.

- B. Program employees will be responsible to know and follow all City, Departmental, and Program standards, policies, and procedures that apply to City of Denton Rec Care Programs.
- C. Program employees must ensure that participants are released only to a parent, or an adult designated by the parent. All Program sites will have a copy of the Department approved plan to verify the identity of a person authorized to pick up a participant if that person is not known to the Specialist and Leader.

12. TRAINING/ORIENTATION

- A. The Department is responsible for providing training and orientation to employees in working with children and for specific job responsibilities. Supervisors and Coordinators will provide each program employee with a program manual specific to each Rec Care Program. Online childcare training may be completed in lieu of departmental training for 3 hours of the required 8 hours per year.
- B. Program employees must be familiar with the Standards of Care for Rec Care Program operation as adopted by the City Council.
- C. Program employees must be familiar with the Program's policies including discipline, guidance, and release of participants as outlined in the Program Manual.
- D. Program employees will be trained in appropriate procedures to handle emergencies.
- E. Program employees will be trained in areas including City, Departmental, and Program policies and procedures, provision of recreation activities, safety issues, child development, and organization.
- F. Program employees will be required to sign an acknowledgment that they received the required training.

OPERATIONS

13. STAFF-PARTICIPANT RATIO

- A. In a City of Denton Rec Care Program, the standard ratio of participants to Program employees will be 17 to 1. In the event a Program employee is unable to report to the Program site, a replacement will be assigned.
- B. Each participant shall have a Program employee who is responsible for him or her and who is aware of the participant's habits, interests, and any special problems as identified by the participant's parent(s) during the registration process.

14. DISCIPLINE

- A. Program employees will implement discipline and guidance in a consistent manner based on the best interests of Program participants.
- B. There must be no cruel or harsh punishment or treatment.
- C. Program employees may use brief, supervised separation from the group if necessary.
- D. As necessary, Program employees will initiate discipline reports to the parent(s) of

participants. Parents will be asked to sign discipline reports to indicate they have been advised about specific problems or incidents.

- E. A significant number and/or severe nature of discipline reports as detailed in the Program Manual may result in the participant being suspended from the Program.
- F. In instances where there is a danger to participants or Program employees, offending participants will be removed from the Program site as soon as possible.

15. PROGRAMMING

- A. Program employees will attempt to provide activities for each group according to the participants' ages, interests, and abilities. The activities must be appropriate to participants' health, safety, and well-being. The activities also must be flexible and promote the participants' emotional, social, and mental growth.
- B. Program employees will attempt to provide that indoor and outdoor times include:
 - i. alternating active and passive activities;
 - ii. opportunity for individual and group activities; and
 - iii. outdoor time each day weather permits.
- C. Program employees will be attentive and considerate of the participants' safety on field trips and during any transportation provided by the Program.
 - i. During trips, Program employees supervising participants must have immediate access to emergency medical forms and emergency contact information for each participant.
 - ii. Program employees must have a written list of the participants in the group and must check the roll frequently.
 - iii. Program employees must have first aid supplies and a guide to first aid and emergency care available on field trips.

16. COMMUNICATION

- A. Each Program employee will have the option to use their own cell phone device or use a city provided cell phone to allow the Program employees to be contacted by Parks and Recreation personnel, and for use in contacting the Supervisor, Coordinator, or making emergency calls.
- B. The Supervisor or Coordinator will post the following telephone numbers adjacent to a telephone accessible to all Program employees at each site:
 - i. Denton ambulance or emergency medical services;
 - ii. City of Denton Police Department;
 - iii. City of Denton Fire Department;
 - iv. Civic Center, Recreation Centers, Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center, Calhoun Middle School, Evers Park Elementary School, and McMath Middle School;
 - v. Numbers at which parents may be reached; and
 - vi. The telephone number for the site itself.

17. TRANSPORTATION

- A. Before a participant may be transported to and from city-sponsored activities, a City waiver

- form, completed by the parent of the participant, must be filed.
- B. First aid supplies will be available in all Program vehicles that transport children.
 - C. All children must be securely seated in the appropriate safety seat/booster based on state child safety laws.
 - D. All vehicles used for transporting participants must have available a 6-BC portable fire extinguisher which will be installed in the passenger compartment of the vehicle and must be accessible to the adult occupants.

18. VOLUNTEERS

- A. The City of Denton accepts volunteers from AmeriCorps, Foster Grandparents and other similar organizations
- B. Volunteers are not included in ratio counts
- C. Volunteers Requirements
 - i. Pass City background check
 - ii. Wear volunteer identification
 - iii. Receive site-specific training
 - iv. Volunteer under the supervision of City staff

FACILITY STANDARDS

19. SAFETY

- A. Program employees will visually inspect Program sites daily to detect sanitation and safety concerns that might affect the health and safety of the participants.
- B. Buildings, grounds, and equipment on the Program site will be inspected, cleaned, repaired, and maintained to protect the health of the participants.
- C. Program equipment and supplies must be safe for the participants' use.
- D. Program employees must have first aid supplies readily available in a designated area at each site, during transportation to an off-site activity, and for the duration of any off-site activity.
- E. Program air conditioners, electric fans, and heaters must be mounted out of participants' reach or have safeguards that keep participants from being injured.
- F. Program porches and platforms more than 30 inches above the ground must be equipped with railings participants can reach.
- G. All swing seats at Program sites must be constructed of durable, lightweight, relatively pliable material.
- H. Program employees must have first aid supplies readily available to staff in a designated location.

20. FIRE

- A. In case of fire, danger of fire, explosion, or other emergency, Program employees' first priority is to evacuate the participants to a designated safe area.
- B. The Program site will have an annual fire inspection by the local Fire Marshal, and the resulting report will detail any safety concerns observed. The report will be forwarded to

the Program Manager who will review and establish deadlines and criteria for compliance.

- C. Each site must have at least one fire extinguisher approved by the Fire Marshal readily available to all employees. The fire extinguisher is to be inspected monthly by the camp supervisors or counselors; All Program employees will be trained in the proper use of fire extinguishers.
- D. Fire drills will be initiated at Program sites based on the following schedule:
 - i. After School Program: A fire drill once every three months.
 - ii. Spring Break Camp and Holiday Camp: A fire drill once during the session.
 - iii. Camp Exploration, Camp Voyage, Camp Discovery, Camp Conquest, and Super Kids: A fire drill twice during the session.
 - iv. Teen Camp and Counselors in Training: A fire drill once during the session.

21. HEALTH

- A. Illness or Injury
 - i. Illnesses and injuries will be handled in a manner to protect the health of all participants and employees.
 - ii. A participant whose illness poses a potential health or safety concern to other participants or employees will not be admitted to the Program.
 - iii. Program employees will follow plans to provide emergency care for injured participants with symptoms of an acute illness as specified in the Program manual.
 - iv. Program employees will follow the recommendation of the Texas Department of Health concerning the admission or readmission of any participant after a communicable disease.
- B. Program employees will administer medication only if:
 - i. Parent(s) complete and sign a medication form that provides authorization for employee to dispense medication with details as to time and dosages. The form will include a hold harmless clause to protect the City.
 - ii. Prescription medications are in the original containers labeled with the child's name, a current date, directions, and the physician's name. Program employees will administer the medication only as stated on the label. Program employees will not administer medication after the expired date.
 - iii. Nonprescription medications are labeled with the child's name and the date the medication was brought to the Program. Nonprescription medication must be in the original container. Program employees will only administer nonprescription medications if a doctor's note is provided and only according to label direction.
 - iv. Medication dispensed will be limited to routine oral ingestion not requiring special knowledge or skills on the part of Program employees.
 - v. Program employees must ensure medications are inaccessible to participants or, if it is necessary to keep medications in the refrigerator (when available), medications will be kept separate from food.
 - vi. Children who may require epi-pen injections due to severe allergic reactions must complete an Anaphylaxis Emergency Action Plan (AEAP) before their child starts the program. Program employees will administer the epi-pen in case of emergency based on the instructions stated on the AEAP.

C. Toilet Facilities

- i. The Program site will have inside toilets located and equipped so children can use them independently and Program employees can supervise as needed.
- ii. There must be one (1) flush toilet for every 30 children. Urinals may be counted in the ratio of toilets to children, but they must not exceed 50% of the total number of toilets.
- iii. An appropriate and adequate number of lavatories will be provided.

D. Sanitation

- i. The Program facilities must have adequate light, ventilation, and heat.
- ii. The Program must have an adequate supply of water meeting the standards of the Texas Department of Health for drinking water and ensure that it will be supplied to the participants in a safe and sanitary manner.
- iii. Program employees must see that garbage is removed from buildings daily.