



KURIAKOS

Sylvan Lake Lutheran Bible Camp Association

RISK AWARENESS FOR PARTICIPANTS AND FAMILIES AT CAMP KURIAKOS

In camping, as in all spheres of life, safety is not possible, not in an absolute sense. There are dangers in every action or lack of action, every relationship, every choice we make. Intuitively, we learn to assess the risks around us, determine specific actions necessary to reduce or control that risk. The same is true at camp.

Some level of risk is intrinsic to the enjoyment and growth benefits of the camp experience. There is emotional risk involved when we meet new friends; physical risk when we jump in the lake or stand near a campfire. We speak of risk management, referring to the actions required to reduce the risk to a tolerable level. Managing the risks of camp is a task taken very seriously by everyone at Kuriakos, by staff and volunteers, directors, and the Board of Directors.

Elements of the Kuriakos Risk Management Plan

The list below includes examples of what is done at Kuriakos as part of our Risk Management Plan:

- Staff are trained to identify, mitigate, respond to, and reduce risk levels of all activities as part of each stage in planning, executing, and evaluating activities.
- Staff have appropriate certifications for activities or services provided.
- Staff have program appropriate First Aid certification and training.
- Staff and volunteers have Criminal Reference checks.
- Kuriakos is an Accredited Camp of the Alberta Camping Association. Accreditation means that Kuriakos meets all industry standards in program operation, facility management, and administration. An ACA Accreditor visits our site every 3 years.
- Kuriakos provides appropriate safety equipment for activities offered.
- Kuriakos reviews all camper and user group evaluations.
- Kuriakos will maintain all records in accordance with the Kuriakos Privacy Policy.
- Kuriakos participates in regular audits of our safety practices, policy, training, and family management. This includes annual reviews, external inspections, periodic assessments, and inspections during each day of use.
- Kuriakos participates in risk management research and development through participation in industry conferences and workshops.

This list is not exhaustive, but it represents the major actions we take to ensure the highest level of safety we can for all campers.

Risks Encountered in Kuriakos programs

All activities at Kuriakos involve risk. Any of the activities at Kuriakos involve certain emotional and physical risks. Many of them include the risk of disability, death, or psychological trauma in the event of a serious incident.

Some of these hazards may be familiar to us in our home communities: exposure to allergens, personal injury from participation in sports or other active games, lightning, tree-fall, uneven ground, inclement weather, fire, infectious illnesses, equipment failure, and peer interactions.

Some hazards at Kuriakos are more unique to our setting; lake water, forest, low ropes challenge courses, falls from a High Ropes or Climbing wall, wildlife encounters, sleeping in soft walled tents or tarp shelters, uncontrolled slide on snow, a fall from heights, a fall through ice, remoteness from medical services.

These hazards listed, and other hazards not listed, can pose a risk to even a well-trained leader and participants. Any Kuriakos activity can, due to error in judgment, equipment failure, or to the factors of nature beyond a leader's control, become hazardous and potentially life threatening. The systems in place at Kuriakos are designed to mitigate these risks, but the risk does not disappear absolutely.



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Campers and families must weigh the risks that may be encountered at camp with the strengths of the Kuriakos risk management practices and the benefits of the camping experience.

List of Activities that may be included in a Kuriakos program:

- Christian worship and Bible study, modeled on Lutheran expressions of faith and intended to foster the open engagement of all participants
- Climbing Wall (height of 36', fall protection equipment in use)
- Bouldering Wall (height of 8')
- Low ropes challenge course (maximum height of 10', fall protection via spotting)
- High ropes challenge course (height of 36', fall protection equipment in use)
- Waterfront activities: Canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, paddle boats, row boats, floating mats, inflatable floating climbing wall and launch pad, swimming, sauna use, beach front use.
- Archery and slingshots
- Various physical activities: basketball, volleyball, soccer, tetherball, frisbee, football, gaga ball, dancing, initiative tasks, kiting, ice skating, snowshoeing, sledding, snowball throwing, quincee building, other games
- Wood shop use of hand held tools or power tools
- Craft room supplies including heated glue guns, hot liquids, paints and other supplies which are not recommended to be ingested
- Short hiking trips of less than 2 km to the Kuriakos wilderness site, including supervised crossing of the county road
- Fire building and outdoor cooking
- Alternate outdoor sleeping spaces campers may use during their stay: sleeping in soft walled tents at the Kuriakos wilderness site, under a camper constructed tarp shelter, tree house, tipi, decks, outside without shelter
- Eating meals outdoors
- Exposure to cleaning supplies used in assisting with camp clean up

This list is not exhaustive. Other activities may be included. Other risks may be incurred. For example, Kuriakos is required to keep camper records for a 3 year period. Electronic and physical records are kept using secure means and access to these records is limited. These records include information such as address, phone number, birthdate, and other identifying information. This may also include personal financial information.

Statement of Assumption of Risk

1. The camper is voluntarily participating in the programs of Sylvan Lake Lutheran Bible Camp Association (owners and operators of Kuriakos). The camper voluntarily assumes the risks associated with participation. The camper is aware that personal injury or death, anxiety, illness, medical intervention, property damage, property loss, or other loss is possible as a result of participating in Kuriakos programs.
2. The level of risk incurred by this camper at Kuriakos will be lowered if the camper properly follows established participant rules.
3. Photographic and video images captured during the course of a Kuriakos program may be shared with other campers via a program video or used for the purposes of promoting Kuriakos programs, facilities, or events. Promotion includes printed items, social media, the Kuriakos website, tradeshow appearances, presentations to outside groups, and may include other means. Images of this camper will be used for these purposes only.
4. Records are kept in accordance with legal requirement and industry norms.

The camper is responsible for providing all information required in order to care for that camper while at camp. Failure to notify Kuriakos staff of physical, dietary, emotional, medical, social, developmental or other issues may increase the risk of this camper experiencing harm while at Kuriakos.

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