

ELIOT INSTITUTE YOUTH PROGRAM GUIDELINES

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PHILOSOPHY OF THE YOUTH PROGRAM (May 2013)

The Youth Program will support the Eliot Mission Statement, and will comprise a balanced daily schedule. Ideally, the program at each conference will offer a balance of spiritual, intellectual, physical, multi-generational and social components. The overall Youth Program will be planned by the Youth Advisor in consultation with Youth Staff and Youth Committee. Activities implemented during the week will be coordinated and planned with participating Youth.

AGES OF YOUTH (May 2013)

Generally, youth enter the Youth Group during the first camp season that precedes their Fall entry to High School (9th grade). They graduate out of the Youth Group the season before they graduate from High School. Individuals who are out of High School and who are 18 years of age or older are expected to participate in the Adult programs.

DESIGNATED YOUTH AREA (May 2013)

During the hours of 9am-noon and 11pm-1am, the designated youth area is only for youth and their chaperones and staff. Campers in the young adult age group and other age groups are welcome only between 7-9am and noon-11pm.

YOUTH & PARENT/SPONSOR MEETING - FIRST NIGHT (May 2013)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

- Parents/guardians/sponsors (parents)
- Youth - number of years coming to Eliot
- Staff – Experience working with youth

EXPLAIN MORNING PROGRAM

- Mandatory for all youth.
- The program starts right after ingathering (youth are encouraged to attend)
- Youth Staff is responsible for the youth during morning program.
- Cover specifics about the program you have planned for the youth.

OTHER THINGS TO DISCUSS

- Review the Respectful Behavior Policy with everyone and the resulting consequences.
- Parents are responsible for the location of their youth after noon.
- All Eliot participants are encouraged to stay in community. Youth need parental permission to leave conference site.
- From 11:00 pm to 1:00 am, the youth area is an optional activity for youth. It is not a mandatory part of the program. Two chaperones are needed for this time period. If youth decide to go to their rooms during this time, they are to leave in pairs or be accompanied by an adult (that's one of the reasons why we have 2 adults on shift at any one time) and they are not to come back. The escort is to ensure they reach their destination safely.
- Youth are encouraged to attend all-camp activities at this time as well, e.g., games of Encore or any late evening open-mike events. Again, parents are responsible for their attendance at this venue.
- Doors to youth space need to be closed between the hours of 10 pm to 1 am to control impact of noise and light on campers and neighbors. . Use the restroom facilities next to the meeting house so the residents of Pines can have more privacy in the Pines restrooms.
- Youth are encouraged to attend all-camp activities at this time as well, e.g., games of Encore or any late evening open-mike events. Again, parents are responsible for their attendance at this venue.
- Chaperones: Parents can be a part of the chaperone time period, but the youth are ultimately responsible for encouraging members of the community to sign up for chaperone shift times. If chaperones are not listed by 8:00 pm on any given night, the Youth Advisor has the right to cancel the 11-1 shift.
- Cover Eliot's policy around a drug/smoke/alcohol free camp for youth. If youth are found to be in possession or engaged in these activities, youth advisors, deans and parents will be involved in coming up with appropriate consequences. For those 18 or over, smoking is in a designated area.
- Youth may not engage in sexual activity. Fully clothed hugs, kisses, and backrubs (all by consent) are appropriate
- Provide an opportunity for discussions.

YOUTH OVERNIGHT ("SLEEPOVER")

(Revised December 2016)

TIME/DAY: The youth sleepover has been a tradition at Eliot camps for many years. Most camps now hold this event on the next to the last night of camp. This ensures chaperones and youth who will be driving home are not sleep deprived. It also allows the program a closure day and assistance in cleaning up the youth area.

CHAPERONES: The youth themselves should assist in recruiting responsible adults (25 years & over) for overnight supervision shifts. The Youth Advisor must be satisfied that adequate supervision is provided before they give final approval for the overnight.

GUIDELINES

- The chaperones will remain present and awake during their shift.
- You are not permitted to share bedding -- one body per sleeping bag.
- You are not permitted to leave the designated area during the night unless accompanied by a chaperone. The designated area is usually Pines meeting room and, during the summer, outdoors near the front of Pines.
- Let sleeping youth lie. (Those who are asleep should not be disturbed)
- Excessive use of caffeine or other stimulants, especially after midnight, is discouraged.
- Normal curfew and noise expectations apply.

BRIDGING CEREMONIES

(Edited December 2016)

When a Youth is “bridged” from Youth to Young Adult they are still classified as a youth at any other camp that year as long as they are still in high school.

GUIDELINES FOR “FISHBOWLS”

(2016)

Fishbowls between minors (under 18 years of age) may only take place in the presence of Eliot Youth Program staff. Eliot Youth Program staff are encouraged to reach out to the Camp Chaplain to be present at the fishbowl. Fishbowls across the generations that involve minors (under 18) must have parental/sponsor permission.

Youth Program staff are encouraged to share any plans for fishbowl activities at the parent orientation at the beginning of the week at camp. Discussion of the proposed fishbowl by parents, youth, and Youth Program staff at the orientation will determine the logistics around the fishbowl. This will accomplish two things:

- It ensures that the culture of each camp can be addressed in a way that creates maximum participation by youth, and
- allows youth, parents, and Youth Program staff to be comfortable with how the fishbowl is carried out.

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DUWOP POLICY

(Revised March 2017)

In an attempt to balance this need for privacy with the desire for continued fun and connection, Eliot has instituted a policy about image sharing. This is: DUWOP – Don’t Upload With-Out Permission. Before posting photos or videos of any camper to the Internet (or transmitting it via cellphone), you must first obtain permission from the subject; for those under 18 years of age, you must obtain permission from the parents.