



Speaking the Truth in Love
Ephesians 4:15

Dear Parent(s) & Guardian(s),

As camp owners/directors who believe in partnering with parents and all those who send their children to our camp, we wish to share some important information with you. The safety of your children, as you know, has always been and continues to be our number one priority. It is in this spirit that we wish to share with you a very interesting and relatively new method of protecting children from sexual abuse.

We take pride in our ability to carefully select the counselors and staff who work at Canyonview Ministries. The selection process includes reference checks; background checks; ministry safe child protection training, and interviews. We are committed to hiring and training a staff that will ensure a culture of safety. We believe that our compulsory training program, which is presented to staff during orientation and is continued throughout the entire season.

As you know, sexual abuse of children and youth remains an insidious concern in American society. We recently learned of a new and interesting method of parents teaching children how to protect themselves from sexual predators. We wish to share this material with you in the event that you have not yet seen it. Its purpose is to help you keep your children safe any time they are away from you.

The information included in this mailing is a part of our staff manuals. We believe that the introduction to children of the **No Touch Zone** as described in the enclosed document offers a substantially effective system of self-protection. We hope you find it as vital as we do.

We look forward to greeting you at our off-season events as well as next summer.

In Christ Alone,

Chris Kinman
Canyonview Executive Director

What Every Parent Should Know!

(From: Article written by Norman E. Friedman in the ACA camping magazine Nov/Dec 2010 issue)

How can I spot a child molester?

Since child molesters come from all walks of life, it is easier to spot one by his or her behavior rather than appearance. Here are some of the things to consider:

- Is the person “too good to be true?”
- Is the person spending too much time with children?
- Does the person create reasons to be alone with children?
- Is the person giving children unnecessary gifts or rewards?
- Does the person spend inappropriate time at children’s homes, have an e-mail relationship with them, or have very limited contact with adults?
- Does the person watch child pornography?

What else should I know about abusers?

Most abusers are heterosexual men. Sexual abusers come from all racial, ethnic, and class backgrounds. More than ninety-five percent of child abusers are known and trusted by the child and family. Thirty to sixty percent of molested children twelve-years-old or younger are molested by those less than eighteen years of age. Children in chat rooms on the Internet are targets for molesters.

What do you mean by “inoculating” children against sexual abuse?

Since we can’t always be with our children, we have to teach them how to protect themselves. By educating our children, we are planting the seeds to inoculate them against those who would harm them. That’s because molesters are less likely to pursue savvy children.

What can I do to help educate my child?

We teach our children about fire safety, water safety, and bicycle safety. It’s important that we also teach them precautionary measures they can take against child molesters. And that begins with a discussion about their bodies.

How can I discuss this in a comfortable way without scaring my child?

This is not about sex or violence. You are simply teaching your child what is acceptable behavior when it comes to their bodies and providing simple, clear-cut rules for them to follow.

What is the No Touch Zone?

The area between the waist and the knees (front and back), and the chest area for girls, is the No Touch Zone. [At Canyonview Ministries, we expand the no touch zone from the chest to the knees for both boys and girls and instruct the campers on appropriate and inappropriate touch.] Children should be instructed that only they and their parents are permitted (when appropriate) to touch this area. There are no exceptions without parental permission. If someone touches them, they need to tell their parent(s) what happened.

Parents should:

- Create the permission list (i.e., grandmother, doctor, etc.) of people who can touch them.
- Rehearse the list and discuss the add-on people.
- Instruct your child not to touch anyone in their No Touch Zone.
- When children turn five, parents should limit their contact with the No Touch Zone.

How can parents provide support to their children?

Encourage communication.

Abusers may be older siblings, or adult family members, so parents should:

- Identify “safe adults” both inside and outside the family for children to talk to.
- Teach their children that secrets are not acceptable.
- Have children tell their parent(s) anytime someone tries to touch them inappropriately or create a secret with them.

Teaching Your Children the **No Touch Zone - Chest to knees**

The American Pediatric Association and other authorities on human sexuality and child development recommend that you teach your children the names of their body parts beginning at eighteen months of age and continuing until they are five years of age. At age five, parents should teach children about their private parts, or the No Touch Zone.

The No Touch Zone includes the parts of the body between the chest and knees, for boys and girls. These private parts may only be touched by the child and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s). (Exceptions by parental permission only.) The parent(s) should establish a permission list.

Teaching children body parts specifically means that one should not differentiate or leave out any parts of the body in the teaching process. The table in Figure 1 (below), separated by gender, is a suggested list to use to teach the names of the parts of the body.

Figure 1. Example List of Body Part Names

MALE	FEMALE	IMPORTANT: Choose comfortable names for the body parts if necessary.
Head	Head	
Eyes	Eyes	
Nose	Nose	
Mouth	Mouth	
Chin	Chin	
Neck	Neck	
Chest	Chest	
Abdomen	Abdomen	
Navel	Navel	
Penis	Labia	
Scrotum	Vagina	
Buttocks	Buttocks	
Anus	Anus	
Thigh	Thigh	
Knee/Ankle	Knee/Ankle	
Feet	Feet	

THE NO TOUCH ZONE

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*The chest for a female is included and taught as soon as she can learn it. The shaded and italicized section of the table defines private parts and/or the No Touch Zone.

At approximately five years of age, children need to learn about their private parts / the No Touch Zone. They are now ready to learn that the area between their waist and knees (all the way around) is the No Touch Zone, and they must stop anyone who attempts to touch this area by simply saying: "You are not allowed to touch me there." They must then tell their parents what happened. They have learned that only those on a permission list have the right to touch them. No one else, ever!

Child molesters who learn that a child is "savvy" will keep away. They rarely stand up to a child who just says, "No." They do not want to get caught. Once learned, reviewing the No Touch Zone is very meaningful to a child and begins the process of self-protection. The most effective combatants in the war against child molesters are the children themselves who have been taught by their parents.

Safe & Secure Orientation

Given as a Presentation at the Beginning of Each Camp

Welcome / Goals For You:

- We want you to have the greatest time of your life here. A summer you will never forget.
- Life Changing Experiences – You are going to get to do some of the most fun things in the whole world.
- Relationships – You are surrounded by some of the greatest counselors in the world who care for you.
- Spiritual - We desire for you to encounter Jesus in a real way and grow in your relationship with Him.
- Are you ready?

Recognizing

Before we get started, we have to cover the rules/boundaries so you can have the greatest time of your life. Just like the game of soccer, there are rules that we all play by so we can have a safe and enjoyable experience. These rules help us know what we can do and can't do, what is safe and not safe.

1. Modesty

- Should be covered at ALL times. (i.e. - Shower Period, Trips, etc.) No exceptions.
- Never display body parts to one another or touch someone else's.

2. One-on-One's

- *Should NEVER be alone with a counselor or other staff member where others are not present.*
- *Should NEVER be alone with other youth where staff is not present.*
- *Always be with a "buddy."*
- *Nobody should ever tell you a "secret" or not to tell. We don't have any secrets here. **None.***

3. Good Touch vs. Bad Touch

- *Appropriate: Feel Safe & Encouraged - (high-fives, short side hugs, arm around shoulders, etc.)*
- *Inappropriate: Feel Uncomfortable – (touching private parts, hitting, pushing, lap sitting, etc.)*

4. Good Talk vs. Bad Talk

- Good Talk: Always Encourage One Another – Positive, Uplifting, Praise, Pure Speech
- Bad Talk: Making Fun of Others – Negative, Bad Language, Disrespectful, Potty Humor, Sexual Jokes

5. Bullying

- No tolerance. If someone ask you to stop...you **MUST** stop.
- If you ever feel like someone is picking on you or being mean to you...report it immediately.

6. Your Territory

- Your Space - Your Stuff - Your Bed.
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7. Offsite Communication

- Parents approval.

Resisting

You should NEVER feel uncomfortable or unsafe here. If you ever feel unsafe or uncomfortable, you can say NO and get away from that person immediately. This is a place where you should always feel safe and encouraged.

Reporting

If you EVER feel uncomfortable or one of the rules we talked about has been broken, you need to tell someone immediately. You can do one of three things...

1. Tell a Counselor or Director...so we can help you.
2. Write a note and put it in the Comment Box located....
3. Tell a Nurse in the Health Center.

Recognize – Resist – Report

Consequences

If you decide not to abide by these rules, it may lead to immediate dismissal from the program.

Year Round Contact with Minor's Policies/Guidelines

We do not encourage our staff to continue relationships with individual campers and Teens in Ministry (T.I.M.s) because of the sensitive nature of adults dealing with minors unless it is directed by the request of the parent. Your child may receive one postcard from their counselor as a way to encourage and build them up as a person and in their faith.

For the reasons listed above, we train our staff NOT to friend their campers, or Teen in Ministry on Facebook (or other social media), send e-mails to their campers, or personally call them on the phone. It is not that we do not trust our staff. However, we feel that personal growth, mentorship, and ongoing encouragement should come from you as their parent and anyone locally you deem qualified to build up your child.