



CHILD PROTECTION CODE OF CONDUCT

1. To protect Botetourt County Parks & Recreation staff, volunteers, and program participants, at no time during a Botetourt County Parks & Recreation program may a staff person or volunteer be alone with a single child (other than your own child) where the staff person or volunteer cannot be observed by others.
2. Volunteers shall never leave a child unsupervised.
3. Volunteers shall not abuse children or use corporal punishment of any kind. This includes physical abuse, verbal abuse, sexual abuse, mental abuse, or neglect. Any type of abuse will not be tolerated and is cause for dismissal.
4. Volunteers will respect children's rights to not be touched in ways that make them feel uncomfortable. A child's right to say "no" is to be encouraged and respected.
5. Volunteers will use appropriate touch including pats on the back or shoulder, side hugs, handshakes, and high fives. Volunteers will refrain from full frontal hugging, touching of personal areas, or patting of the buttocks.
6. Volunteers will use positive techniques of guidance, including redirection, positive reinforcement, and encouragement rather than competition, comparison, and criticism.
7. Volunteers will not give gifts or special favors to individual children or show preferential treatment to a child or group of children to the exclusion of others.
8. Volunteers will not have private interactions through social media, computer, or handheld devices with any children in the program.
9. Volunteers will respond to children with respect and consideration and treat all children equally regardless of gender, race, religion, sexual identity, or culture.
10. Volunteers will refrain from intimate displays of affection toward others.
11. Using, possessing, or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs during volunteer hours is prohibited.
12. Smoking or use of tobacco in the presence of children or parents during volunteer hours is prohibited.
13. Profanity, inappropriate jokes, sharing intimate details of one's personal life, and any kind of harassment is prohibited.
14. Volunteers may not date program participants under the age of 18 years of age.
15. Volunteers are required to report any suspicion of child abuse to CPS or law enforcement authorities within 24 hours as required by state and federal law. Failure to report may be a criminal violation under state and federal law.
 - Botetourt County Child Protective Services: 540-591-5960 between the hours of 8-4:30.
After hours, call the Virginia State Hotline: 1-800-552-7096 or if severe, call local police.
16. Volunteers should never release children to anyone other than the parent, guardian, or other adult authorized by the parent/guardian. Written* approval from a parent/guardian is required if the child is to leave with another adult.
17. Volunteers may not be alone with children they meet in Botetourt County Parks & Recreation programs outside of volunteer hours. The following scenarios would need prior written* parent authorization:
 - Babysitting, sleepovers, and inviting children to their home.
 - Volunteers transporting children in their own vehicles.

*Written approval from parents can include text messages and emails

**Please print and sign on page two.

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I understand that any violation of this Child Protection Code of Conduct may result in dismissal and exclusion from future opportunities with Botetourt County Parks & Recreation.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____