

# SHEPHERD'S FOLD RANCH

## PARENT FAQ: CAMPER SAFETY



At Shepherd's Fold Ranch, the safety of our campers - physically and emotionally - is our highest priority. Of all the things we do, nothing is more important than making sure your child is safe, cared for, and well supervised.

We understand the trust you place in us when you drop your child off at camp. Parents should expect that they will pick up their camper a few days later well-fed, well cared for, and spiritually encouraged. That expectation is one we take seriously. Below are answers to some of the most common safety-related questions.

### How are campers supervised during camp?

Our programming and daily schedule are intentionally designed to ensure 100% supervision and accountability at all times.

- There is never a time during the day when campers are not supervised by two or more staff members.
- During outside free time, unused buildings are locked and staff are actively present in all activity areas.
- Staff are trained to minimize one-on-one interactions with campers.
- One-on-one time behind closed doors is strictly prohibited.
- Our entire camp structure is built to prevent isolation and promote visibility and accountability.

### What are your staff to camper ratios?

Shepherd's Fold Ranch follows staff to camper ratios based on both our organizational standards and the recommendations of the American Camp Association (ACA).

#### Recommended Ratios:

- Ages 6-8: 1 staff member for every 6 campers
- Ages 9-14: 1 staff member for every 8 campers
- Ages 15-17: 1 staff member for every 10 campers

## *Parent FAQ: Camper Safety continued.*

In addition to these ratios:

- At least two staff members must always be present with campers. Campers are never alone with a single staff member.
- At least 80% of the required ratio must be staffed by individuals age 18 or older.
- Forerunners are not counted as adult supervision in staff to camper ratios.
- All staff members must have graduated high school.
- Staff must be at least 2 years older than the minors with whom they are working.

These ratios are followed during all programs run by Shepherd's Fold Ranch. Organizations that utilize our facilities for youth events outside of summer camp are also advised of these recommended ratios for effective supervision.

### How are staff trained to ensure camper safety?

All staff members receive multiple layers of training, especially in the area of child protection and abuse prevention.

Training includes:

- MinistrySafe Training
- Expert Online Training
- Internal staff training and review of our ACA-compliant policies and procedures manual

Staff are specifically trained on

- Appropriate and inappropriate interactions
- Abuse prevention and recognition
- Maintaining appropriate boundaries
- Avoiding one-on-one situations
- Reporting procedures and documentation

Camper safety is not assumed. It is trained, practiced and reinforced.

### Do staff undergo background checks?

Yes. All summer and year round staff members undergo background checks as part of our screening and hiring process prior to serving at Shepherd's Fold Ranch.

### What is your reporting process?

Shepherd's Fold Ranch maintains clear documentation and reporting procedures.

- Staff are required to complete incident reports for any injury, behavioral issue, concerning interaction, or deviation from standard operating procedures.
- Incidents are reviewed by leadership and handled according to established policies.
- We are mandatory reporters in the state of Oklahoma.
- Any suspicion or report of past or present abuse is reported to the appropriate state authorities, including Oklahoma DHS/CPS, within 24 hours as required by law.

We take all concerns seriously and respond promptly and appropriately.

### What steps are taken to ensure emotional safety?

Physical safety is essential but so is emotional well-being.

Our staff are trained to:

- Treat every camper with dignity and respect
- Foster a Christ-centered, encouraging environment
- Address bullying or inappropriate behavior immediately
- Promote inclusion and healthy peer relationships

We strive to create a place where campers feel safe, seen, valued and supported.

### Our Commitment to You

When you entrust your child to Shepherd's Fold Ranch, you are placing your confidence in us. We do not take that lightly. Through intentional supervision, clear policies, thorough training, and accountability measures, we work diligently to provide a camp experience that is safe, structured and life-giving.

Please feel free to contact us if you have additional questions.