



Crime prevention and safety tips

Board of County Commissioners | Criminal Justice Liaison

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Bully-Free Summer Camp

Summer Camp Bullies

- Bullying is one of the top three reasons why children don't return to camp the next year.¹
- 54% of summer camps report problem behaviors as one of the biggest issues handled.²
- Nearly 95% of camp counselors say most bullying reports are teasing and name-calling.¹
- Almost all camp counselors report having experienced bullying—either as victims, bullies or observers.¹
- 60% of camp bullying may not be reported because kids don't feel adults can solve the problem.²

Bullying at Camp Includes:

- Rumors and gossip about new campers.
- Taunting during sports games.
- Sexual harassment during shower time.
- Social rejection including exclusion from games and activities.
- Bunk pranks.
- Cyberbullying through text messaging or e-mail.

Advice for Camp Counselors:

- Teach campers what bullying is, the different types, how to recognize it, and how to intervene.
- Counselors should intervene immediately if they see or hear about bullying.
- Organize role-playing activities to help campers practice bullying prevention skills.
- Talk to the campers about feeling safe and encourage them to report any bullying incidents to counselors.
- Set up a "code of conduct" for your campers from the start.
- Be a good role model for campers.

Parents—Before Camp Begins:

- Discuss bullying with your child—what it is, why it's unacceptable, and what your child should do.
- Tell your children that you expect them to help a child who is being bullied or excluded.
- Encourage your child to talk to a camp staff member if they see or experience bullying.
- Find out what procedures are in place to address bullying.
- Ask the camp director how staff members are trained to intervene.
- Find out the camp rules related to bullying.
- Find out how campers are supervised between activities and at night.

Once Camp Begins:

- Listen and communicate regularly with your child at camp.
- Ask your children about friendships they make at camp.
- Ask your child about interactions with other campers to find out about any concerns.
- Tell camp counselors to call you if your child is having problems.

¹Bully-Proof Your Life, Dr. Joel Haber; ²2009 American Camp Association Survey.

Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioner goals are to reduce property crime, violent crime and overall crime by 2015. These tips are intended to increase your awareness and help avoid crime. If you have a proven prevention or awareness tip that can be shared, fax it to 813-276-2630 for consideration for a future Crime Prevention and Safety Tip. If you have questions regarding this tip, call 813-276-2033.