

January 1, 2015

Re: Safety Standards at Camp Whitesand

Camp Whitesand has done made great effort to ensure that the programs of the camp are conducted with safety and professionalism. In keeping with this philosophy Camp Whitesand has, since the year 2000, consistently met the guidelines necessary to maintain accreditation with the Saskatchewan Camping Association. The following information regarding accreditation with the Saskatchewan Camping Association is taken from the SCA Directory.

In keeping with our goal of assisting camps in improving facilities, program and operation, the SCA has developed a program of accreditation. This program, with its mandatory standards and desirable practices, for all aspects of camp operations, is an educational tool designed to help camps become more knowledgeable about current government laws and safe camping practices. SCA recognizes the special differences among camps in Saskatchewan. Standards are not intended to regulate or limit the unique spirit or emphasis of any individual camp but to assist camps in evaluating and improving their facilities, program and operation. The standards are under constant review to include changes in government legislation and the concerns of the camping community.

In addition, in an attempt to ensure that safety practices of various aspects of the camp program, staff members receive training from the following accredited training organizations:

WATERFRONT ACTIVITIES:

All waterfront activities are directed and supervised by staff members that have current National Lifeguard Service Certification. The following information comes from the Lifesaving Society website.

The primary role of the NLS lifeguard is the prevention of emergency situations and, where this fails, the timely and effective resolution of emergencies. The NLS award is designed to prepare lifeguards to fulfill this role as professional facilitators of safe, enjoyable aquatics.

The NLS courses cannot, in theory or practice, prepare candidates for every situation that might occur while working in Canadian aquatic environments and facilities. NLS training is designed to teach the principles and develop the basic lifeguarding skills and decision-making processes that will help lifeguards evaluate and adapt to different aquatic facilities and emergencies.



HORSEMANSHIP:

Horsemanship staff is trained yearly by Equestrian Management Workshops. This Organization is one of eleven that currently are approved by the American Camping Association to certify instructors for camp horseback riding programs (<http://www.acacamps.org/accreditation/horsecert.php>)

The Equestrian Managements Workshops website lists the managers with current certification. Our Head Wrangler (Tanya Parsons – Progressive Rider Instructor) and our assistant Wrangler (Ted Ward – Stable Hand Instructor) are certified instructors. (http://www.eqmw.com/certified_instructors_and_assistants_2010).

HIGH ROPES CHALLENGE COURSE:

All staff members serving at the High Ropes Challenge Course are trained each year by Challenges Unlimited Inc. The following information comes from the Challenges Unlimited Training Manual:

*C.U.I. is a Level 4 Professional Vendor Member of the Association for Challenge Course Technology. Our training incorporates **ACCT Operations Standards**. Andrew Hubert, President of C.U.I. was co-chair of the Operations Standards Committee which wrote the original & revised (May 2004) ACCT Operations Standards.*

The training team at C.U.I. is comprised of people who have strong educational and experience backgrounds specializing in the use of experiential adventure learning. Each person on our team brings an eclectic background of skills that enhances training with clients who are using adventure programs recreationally, educationally, therapeutically or for training and development.

Every effort is made to ensure the safety and well-being of campers at Camp Whitesand. All staff members are trained to recognize high risk areas and camper behavior and how to most effectively deal with those situations.

Sincerely,



Richard Williams
Camp Director