

# NEW TEXAS YOUTH CAMP RULES

**Effective May 16, 2010**

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The Texas Youth Camp and Safety Act became effective on June 1, 2006 (“Youth Camp Act”). The requirements of the Youth Camp Act were found in the Texas Health and Safety Code (Chapter 141) and the Texas Administrative Code (Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 265, Subchapter B).

Effective May 16, 2010, new rules introduced by the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) will become effective. Rather than simply *adding* to the existing rules, the TDSHS has modified the existing rules within the Texas Administrative Code:

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/youthcamp/rules.shtm>

**The first challenge** for organizations and camps complying with the Act is to determine what has been changed by comparing the old with the new – identifying provisions which have been changed, added or removed. Below is a highlighted copy of the amended Texas Administrative Code section that contains the new youth camp rules – all of the modifications appear in yellow. Occasional commentary appears within the body of the highlighted copy when a change in the law impacts screening, training or reporting requirements related to child sexual abuse; the comments appear in boxed inserts (also discussed in summary form below).

**The second challenge** relates to the timing of enforcement. The TDSHS acknowledges that the new rules are effective immediately, with little time available for camps and organizations to modify practices to accommodate the new measures. TDSHS expects immediate compliance and will note all deficiencies. If the deficiency is related to the new rules (2010 changes/additions), the deficiency will not be accompanied by a fine. This ‘grace period’ will extend through the ‘summer of 2010’. For more information about the compliance plan for the new rules, contact your representative of the Youth Camp Advisory Committee.

(<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/youthcamp/AdvCom.shtm>)

## SPECIFIC CHANGES

The mission of MinistrySafe and Abuse Prevention Systems is to equip member entities to reduce the risk of child sexual abuse. In accord with this mission, this information concerning changes in Texas law is offered to members. Though many changes to the youth camp rules were made, this discussion is limited to those rule changes involving screening, training or reporting requirements related to child sexual abuse.

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### **Requirement to Complete Criminal Background Checks PRIOR to Access to Children**

The changes contained in §265.12(f) are the most significant additions relating to screening practices and the protection of children from sexual abuse. Though subsection (f) is not new, its significant modification requires close review.

The 2006 requirements called for searches of criminal conviction records and the sex offender registration records; it did not, however, specifically require the searches to be completed prior to allowing adult staff members or volunteers unsupervised contact with children. The new rules require that these checks be completed PRIOR to a staff member or volunteer having unsupervised contact with children.

### **Requirement to Search Temporary and Educational Addresses**

The new §265.12(f)(1) and §265.12(f)(2) may require additional searches to comply with the criminal conviction and sex offender registration requirements. The new rules distinguish between permanent, temporary and educational addresses, requiring a search of each if an applicant has any address other than a permanent address. An example of a scenario requiring an additional search follows: John Doe applies as an adult staff member. John is from Houston, Texas and is a college student at Tulsa University. The new rules would require searches related to John Doe's permanent address (Houston/Texas) and searches related to John Doe's educational address (Tulsa/Oklahoma).

### **Convictions and Deferred Adjudications**

The 2006 provisions referenced only “convictions”; the new rules call for preclusion if the person has a “conviction or *deferred adjudication*”.

### **Impact of Particular Criminal Convictions or Deferred Adjudications**

If an applicant's criminal background involves a conviction or deferred adjudication for an offense listed in §265.12(g), that applicant SHALL BE PRECLUDED from serving as a staff member or volunteer, or allowed unsupervised contact with children (other than their own).

Title 5 “Offenses Against the Person” include (but are not limited to) homicide, false imprisonment, kidnapping, assault, sexual assault, injury to a child/elderly individual/disabled individual, abandoning or endangering a child, leaving a child in a vehicle.

Title 6 “Offenses Against the Family” include (but not limited to) matters related to the interference with child custody.

The offenses listed in §265.12(g)(1)(A) and (B) MAY PRECLUDE a person from serving as a staff member or volunteer, or allowed unsupervised contact with children.

## **Refinement of Abuse and Neglect Reporting Requirements**

The specific requirements for reporting abuse (sexual or physical) and neglect appear in §265.15(d). The new rules provide a great deal of detail and refinement for reporting incidents of abuse and neglect.

The definitions and requirements contained in 265.15(d) refer to the Texas Family Code, which requires reporting of alleged or suspected abuse or neglect. (Chapter 261, Family Code.)

The requirements for reporting incidents of abuse or neglect occurring at a youth camp are found in §265.15(d)(1), while requirements for reporting incidents of abuse or neglect that occur elsewhere are found in §265.15(d)(2).

It is critical that all staff members and volunteers understand these requirements for reporting abuse and neglect.

# Texas Administrative Code

**TITLE 25**  
**PART 1**  
**CHAPTER 265**  
**SUBCHAPTER B**

HEALTH SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES  
GENERAL SANITATION  
TEXAS YOUTH CAMPS SAFETY AND HEALTH

## Rules

**§265.11. Definitions.** The following words and terms, when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings, unless the content clearly indicates otherwise.

- (1) Act--Texas Youth Camp Safety and Health Act, Health and Safety Code, Chapter 141.
- (2) Adult--A person 18 years of age or older.
- (3) Camper--A minor child, under 18, who is attending a youth camp on either a day or boarding basis.
- (4) Commissioner--The Commissioner of the Department of State Health Services.
- (5) Day camp--A camp that operates during the day or any portion of the day between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. for four or more consecutive days and that offers no more than two overnight stays during each camp session. To be eligible to be licensed as a youth camp, the camp's schedule shall be structured so that each camper attends for more than four hours per day for four consecutive days. The term does not include a facility that is required to be licensed with the Department of Family and Protective Services (formerly the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services).
- (6) Department--Department of State Health Services, P.O. Box 149347, Austin, Texas 78714-9347.
- (7) Executive Commissioner--Executive Commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission.
- (8) Firearm--Any device designed, made, or adapted to expel a projectile through a barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or a burning substance, or any device readily convertible to that use.

(9) Hazardous activity--A camp activity such as waterfront activities, archery, horseback riding, challenge courses, or riflery that requires special technical skills, equipment, or safety regulations.

(10) Municipal water supply--A public water supply owned or operated by or for a city or a corporation having the right of administering local government.

(11) Pellet gun--Any device designed, made, or adapted to expel a projectile through a barrel by using compressed air or carbon dioxide. This definition includes, but is not limited to, air guns, air rifles, BB guns, and paintball guns.

(12) Permanent structure--Man-made buildings such as dining halls, dormitories, cabins, or other buildings that are constructed to remain stationary.

(13) Person--An individual, partnership, corporation, association, or organization. In these rules, a person does not include a government or governmental subdivision.

(14) Playground--A designated area designed for campers to play freely on equipment as defined in the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Publication Number 325, "Handbook for Public Playground Safety," April 2008 (<http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PUBS/325.pdf>) as amended.

(15) Primitive camp--A youth camp that does not provide either permanent structures or utilities for camper use.

(16) Public water system, as defined in 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §290.38(66) --The rules effective December 10, 2009 define a public water system as a system for the provision to the public of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances, which includes all uses described under the definition for drinking water (30 TAC §290.38(22)). Such a system shall have at least 15 service connections or serve at least 25 individuals at least 60 days out of the year. This term includes any collection, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities under the control of the operator of such system and used primarily in connection with such system, and any collection or pretreatment storage facilities not under such control which are used primarily in connection with such system. Two or more systems with each having a potential to serve less than 15 connections or less than 25 individuals but owned by the same person, firm, or corporation and located on adjacent land will be considered a public water system when the total potential service connections in the combined systems are 15 or greater or if the total number of individuals served by the combined systems total 25 or greater at least 60 days out of the year. Without excluding other meanings of the terms "individual" or "served," an individual shall be deemed to be served by a water system if he lives in, uses as his place of employment, or works in a place to which drinking water is supplied from the system.

(17) Resident camp--A camp that for a period of four or more consecutive days continuously provides residential services to each camper, including overnight accommodations for at least three consecutive nights.

(18) Supervisor/counselor--Camp personnel or youth group leader, 18 years of age or older, who is responsible for the immediate supervision of campers.

(19) Swim test--A formalized test, specific to the body of water utilized, to determine each child's swimming ability. A swim test includes a skill evaluation, or some equivalent method of determining swimming ability, such as:

(A) Non-swimmer: Get into the shallow water, sit down, stand up, and exit the water.

(B) Intermediate swimmer: Jump feet first into water at least twelve inches deeper than the height of the child. Level off, swim 25 feet, turn around and swim back. Exit the water.

(C) Swimmer: Jump feet-first into water at least twelve inches deeper than the height of the child and swim 75 yards in a strong stroke on your stomach or side (breaststroke, sidestroke, crawl, trudgen, or any combination). Then swim 25 yards on your back (elementary back stroke), then float and rest on your back for one minute. Exit the water.

(20) Travel camp--A day or resident camp, lasting for four or more consecutive days, that begins and ends at a fixed location, but may move from location to location on a daily basis.

(21) TCEQ--Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, telephone (512) 239-1000.

(22) Waterfront--A natural, or artificial body of water that includes, but is not limited to, a lake, ocean, bay, pond, river, swimming pool, or spa, which is the site of any water activity.

(23) Waterfront activity--A recreational or instructional activity, occurring in, on, or near a waterfront. Waterfront activity includes, but is not limited to, swimming, boating, water skiing, scuba diving, rafting, tubing, synchronized swimming or sailing.

(24) Youth camp--A facility or property, other than a facility required to be licensed by the Department of Family and Protective Services that:

(A) has the general characteristics of a day camp, resident camp, or travel camp;

(B) is used for recreational, athletic, religious, or educational activities;

(C) accommodates at least five minors who attend or temporarily reside at the camp for all or part of at least four consecutive days; and

(D) is not a facility or program operated by or on the campus of an institution of higher education or a private or independent institution of higher education as those terms are defined by the Education Code, §61.003, that is regularly inspected by one or more local governmental entities for compliance with health and safety standards.

**(25) Youth camp, general characteristics of. A youth camp:**

**(A) provides supervision, instruction, and recreation;**

**(B) accommodates at least five minors during each camp session;**

**(C) operates as a youth camp for no more than 120 days each calendar year;**

**(D) hosts children who are apart from parents or guardians;**

**(E) operates as a youth camp for a period of four or more consecutive days;**

**(F) operates as a youth camp for more than four consecutive hours per day;**

**(G) operates as a youth camp only during school vacation periods;**

**(H) offers a variety of activities in an outdoor setting; and**

**(I) schedules activities so that campers spend a minimum of 60% of their time out-of-doors between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.**

This definitional list is simply a different format from the 2006 provision that appears in §265.11 (21); the only addition is the language in (B) which adds “accommodates at least five minors during each camp session;”

**(26) Youth camp operator--Any person who owns, operates, controls, or supervises a youth camp, whether or not for profit.**

## §265.12. Directors, Supervisors, and Staff.

(a) On-site director required. Each youth camp shall be under the on-site direction of a qualified adult with at least two years of experience working with children. The director shall be knowledgeable in camp administrative practices and shall have at least one year of leadership experience with an organized youth camp, school or other youth-serving organization, such as the Boy Scouts of America or Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).

(b) Adult supervisors. Each youth camp shall have at least one adult supervisor who is responsible for the supervision of no more than ten children in the camp. For any hazardous activity the supervisor(s) shall be in the immediate vicinity (within sight and/or hearing) of the campers. An "all camp" sedentary activity, not requiring physical activity, may require less supervision, and each camp shall establish its own guidelines, but not less than one adult supervisor to every 25 campers. The camp director shall not be included in the supervisor to camper ratio in camps serving over 50 campers at one time.

(c) Supervision of hazardous activity. Hazardous camp activities shall be conducted by and under the direct supervision of a qualified adult capable of implementing safety standards established by the department or the camp. The specialist shall also have documented training or at least two years documented experience in conducting the activity.

(d) Written personnel policies and practices. A camp shall have written personnel policies and practices for both campers and staff. Supervisors shall be informed of these policies and practices prior to assuming responsibility for campers.

(e) Staff member character and integrity records. The camp management shall ascertain and have on record information, such as a letter of reference, attesting to the character and integrity of each staff member, and information, such as training certificates, attesting to the ability of each staff member to perform the tasks required in his or her position.

The following sections are the most significant additions that relate to the screening process and the protection of children from sexual abuse. Though subsection (f) is not new, it is significantly modified such that it needs close review. Some notable changes:

\*The 2006 version calls for searches of criminal conviction records and the sex offender registration records; it does not, however, specifically require the searches to be complete prior to allowing adult staff members or volunteers unsupervised contact with children. The new rules require that these checks be completed PRIOR to having unsupervised contact with children.



(f) Criminal conviction and sex offender background check requirements. The camp management shall have on file a record of any criminal conviction and a sex offender registration check for all adult staff members and all adult volunteers working at the camp before the staff member or volunteer has unsupervised contact with children at the camp. If the records are located off-site, a letter from the national or regional headquarters of the camp organization stating the names of individuals at the camp site for whom background checks have been conducted, shall be available at the camp site. All records of criminal convictions and written evaluations for a camp or camping organization shall be made available to department personnel within two business days upon request. Youth camps are responsible for ensuring that criminal and sex offender background checks have been conducted for international staff obtained through the J-1 visa process, and that documentation of these checks are located with other staff background checks. Records of criminal convictions and sex offender status shall be obtained by:

(1) performing an annual criminal background check using a criminal history database for each adult staff member's and each adult volunteer's permanent residence. If the staff member or adult volunteer has a temporary or an educational residence, an annual criminal background check shall include searching under the permanent, temporary and educational address, as applicable. The criminal history database used for the criminal background check is to be based on the individual's residences, and may include state, national or international databases. Documentation of the search results, whether or not the results are positive, shall be maintained with the sex offender background documentation; and

The new §265.12(f)(1) and §265.12(f)(2) may require additional searches to comply with the criminal conviction and sex offender registration requirements. The new rules distinguish between permanent, temporary and educational addresses; the new rules require a search of each (if an applicant has an address other than a permanent address). An example of a scenario that would require an additional search would be as follows: John Doe applies as an adult staff member; John is from Houston, Texas and is a college student at Tulsa University. The new rules would require searches related to John Doe's permanent address (Houston/Texas) and searches related to John Doe's educational address (Tulsa/Oklahoma).

The 2006 provisions referenced only "convictions"; the new rules call for preclusion if the person has a "conviction or *deferred adjudication*".

(2) performing an annual background check using a sex offender registration database for each adult staff member's and each adult volunteer's permanent residence and educational residence if applicable, such as the TXDPS - Sex Offender Registry, which may be accessed at Texas Department of Public Safety - Crime Records Service. Documentation of the search results, whether or not the results are positive, shall be maintained with the criminal background documentation.

(g) Persons whose presence at a youth camp shall be precluded. Youth camps shall not employ paid or unpaid staff members or volunteers at a youth camp, or permit any person to have unsupervised contact with campers other than their own children if the person has the following types of criminal convictions or deferred adjudications: a misdemeanor or felony under Texas Penal Code, Title 5 (Offenses Against the Person), Title 6 (Offenses Against the Family), Chapter 29 (Robbery) of Title 7, Chapter 43 (Public Indecency) or §42.072 (Stalking) of Title 9, §15.031 (Criminal Solicitation of a Minor) of Title 4, §38.17 (Failure to Stop or Report Aggravated Sexual Assault of Child) of Title 8, or any like offense under the law of another state or under federal law.

The above list of offenses SHALL PRECLUDE a person from serving as a staff member or volunteer, or be allowed unsupervised contact with children (other than their own children).

Title 5 “Offenses Against the Person” include (but not limited to) homicide, false imprisonment, kidnapping, assault, sexual assault, injury to a child/elderly individual/disabled individual, abandoning or endangering a child, leaving a child in a vehicle

Title 6 “Offenses Against the Family” include (but not limited to) matters related to the interference with child custody

The offenses listed below in §265.12(g)(1)(A) and (B) MAY PRECLUDE a person from serving as a staff member or volunteer, or be allowed unsupervised contact with children.

(1) Youth camps may preclude a person from being a paid or unpaid staff member or volunteer at a youth camp; or may preclude a person from having unsupervised contact with campers other than the person’s own children, if the person has the following types of criminal convictions or deferred adjudications:

(A) a misdemeanor or felony committed within the past ten years under §46.13 (Making a Firearm Accessible to a Child) or Chapter 49 (Intoxication and Alcoholic Beverage Offenses) of Title 10 of the Texas Penal Code, or any like offense under the law of another state or under federal law; or

(B) any other felony under the Texas Penal Code or any like offense under the law of another state or under federal law that the person committed within the past ten years.

(2) Camp management shall have on file a written evaluation for any staff member or volunteer with a criminal conviction or deferred adjudication included in paragraph (1) of this subsection, showing that management has determined the person is suitable for a position at the youth camp despite a criminal conviction or deferred adjudication.

(i) Sexual abuse and child molestation awareness training and examination program.

(1) Effective June 1, 2006, a youth camp licensee may not employ or accept the volunteer service of an individual for a position involving contact with campers at a youth camp unless:

(A) the individual submits to the licensee or the youth camp has on file documentation that verifies the individual within the preceding two years has successfully completed the training and examination program required by this subsection; or

(B) the individual successfully completes the youth camp's training and examination program approved by the department during the individual's first workweek, and prior to any contact with campers unless supervised during the first workweek by an adult who has successfully completed the program. The youth camp shall have documentation on file and available for inspection within two business days of request by the department verifying that the individual successfully completed the youth camp's training and examination program.

(2) For purposes of this subsection, the term "contact with campers" does not include visitors such as a guest speaker, an entertainer, or a parent who visits for a limited purpose or a limited time if the visitor has no direct and unsupervised interaction with campers. A visitor may have direct and unsupervised contact with a camper to whom the visitor is related. A camp may require training and an examination for visitors if it chooses.

(3) A youth camp licensee shall retain in the person's personnel record a copy of the documentation required or issued under paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection for each employee or volunteer until the second anniversary of the examination date.

(4) Prior to their use, the department may approve training and examination programs offered by trainers under contract with youth camps, by online training organizations, or programs offered in another format, such as a videotape, authorized by the department.

(5) A training and examination program on sexual abuse and child molestation approved by the department shall at a minimum include training and an examination on:

(A) the definitions and effects of sexual abuse and child molestation;

(B) the typical patterns of behavior and methods of operation of child molesters and sex offenders that put children at risk;

(C) the warning signs and symptoms associated with sexual abuse or child molestation, recognition of the signs and symptoms, and the recommended methods of reporting suspected abuse; and

(D) the recommended rules and procedures for youth camps to implement to address, reduce, prevent, and report suspected sexual abuse or child molestation. Training shall include the need to minimize one-on-one isolated encounters between an adult and a minor or between two minors.

(6) The training program shall last for a minimum of one hour and discuss each of the topics described in paragraph (5) of this subsection.

(7) The examination shall consist of a minimum of 25 questions which shall cover each of the topics described in paragraph (5) of this subsection.

(8) To successfully complete the training program, each employee or volunteer shall achieve a score of 70% or more correct on an individual examination. If the examination is taken on-line, the employee or volunteer shall retain a certificate of completion indicating they successfully completed the course.

(9) The department may assess a fee of \$125 to each applicant to cover the costs of the department's initial review and each follow-up review of a training and examination program.

(10) Applications and fees shall be mailed to the Environmental and Sanitation Licensing Group, Department of State Health Services, Mail Code 2003, P.O. Box 149347, Austin, Texas 78714-9347. Applications may be obtained by calling the Environmental and Sanitation Licensing Group at (512) 834-6600 or may be downloaded from <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/youthcamp/default.shtm>.

(11) The department, at least every five years from the date of initial approval, shall review each training and examination program approved by the department to ensure the program continues to meet the criteria and guidelines established under this subsection.

(j) Records retention. All applications, background check reports, training documentation, and other required personnel documentation required by these rules shall be maintained in hard copy or electronic format for a minimum of two years following a person's last day of service.

### §265.13. Site and Physical Facilities.

(a) Safety of camp facility. The buildings, structures, and grounds shall not present a fire, health, or safety hazard.

(b) Accumulation of refuse and debris. The premises of each camp shall be kept free of accumulations of refuse and debris.

(c) Compliance with building, plumbing, electrical and life safety codes. All camp buildings shall comply with applicable building, plumbing, electrical, life safety, and similar codes.

(d) Permanent living or sleeping structures. All permanent structures used for living or sleeping purposes in the camp shall be provided with walls, floors, and ceilings that shall be kept clean and in good repair.

(e) Separate beds, bunks or cots. A separate bed, bunk, or cot shall be required for each person. Beds shall be spaced in a manner that is free of obstruction for entering and exiting.

(f) Bunk bed guardrails. In all rooms housing campers, all bunk beds shall have at least two guardrails, one on each side of the bed for each bed having the underside of its foundation more than 30 inches from the floor in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 16 CFR, Part 1513.3. Bunk beds securely attached to a wall may utilize the wall as one guardrail.

(g) Location of sleeping quarters. Sleeping shall not be permitted in kitchens or in rooms used for food preparation, storage, or service.

(h) Bedding provided by the camp. All articles of bedding provided by the camp, including mattresses and mattress covers, shall be kept clean and in good repair. Any bedroll provided by the camp and used by campers must be properly cleaned between use by different individuals.

(i) Toilets and urinals. The camp shall provide at least one toilet for every 15 females and one toilet for every 15 males. In each male toilet facility, up to 70% of the toilets required may be urinals. In facilities with more than one toilet, some means of privacy must be provided for each toilet.

(j) Lavatories. The camp shall provide at least one lavatory adjacent to toilet facilities. In facilities with more than five toilets or urinals in a room, there must be a minimum of two lavatories.

(k) Hand cleanser required. Each lavatory shall be equipped with one of the following methods to sanitize hands:

(1) lavatories with hot and cold running water shall have soap or hand cleanser available at all times;

(2) lavatories with only cold running water shall have hand sanitizer or anti-bacterial soap available at all times; or

(3) privies and portable toilet facilities not equipped with lavatories providing water shall have waterless hand sanitizer available at all times.

(l) Shower facilities. Resident youth camps shall provide at least one shower for every 15 females and one shower for every 15 males. Each shower shall be equipped with water to meet the needs of the campers. There shall be soap or body cleanser available at all times.

(m) Cleanliness and sanitation of toilets, lavatories and bathing facilities. All toilets, lavatories, and bathing facilities shall be maintained in good repair and kept clean at all times. Every shower room floor shall be washed daily with a suitable detergent or sanitizing agent.

(n) Construction of privies. Privies, if provided, shall be constructed according to standards set forth in the Texas Community Sanitation Handbook, which may be obtained from the department by calling the Environmental Health Group, Policy, Standards and Quality Assurance Unit at 512-834-6773. Privies shall be maintained in a manner to prevent access by flies and animals, to prevent fly breeding, and to prevent contamination of any water supply.

(o) Availability of toilet tissue. Toilet tissue shall be available at all times for each toilet or privy seat.

(p) Lighting and ventilation in toilet and bathing facilities. All permanent toilets and bathing structures shall be adequately ventilated and properly lighted.

(q) Public water supply. If a youth camp water supply meets the definition of a public water system, then all water used for human consumption or which may be used in the preparation of foods or beverages or for the cleaning of any utensil or article used in the course of preparation or consumption of food or beverages for human beings, or which is used for bathing, swimming in a pool or spa, or any other use in which incidental ingestion may occur, shall come from a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) approved drinking water source that meets all applicable standards of 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 290, Public Drinking Water, Subchapter D, Rules and Regulations for Public Water Systems, as amended, and 30 TAC Chapter 290, Public Drinking Water, Subchapter F, Drinking Water Standards Governing Drinking Water Quality And Reporting Requirements For Public Water Systems, as amended.

(r) Private water supply. Youth camps having water supplies that do not meet the definition of a public water system or that are not regulated by the TCEQ shall comply with the following requirements when the camp is open or operational unless otherwise indicated.

(1) Water supply. An adequate supply of water shall be available at all times in each camp in accordance with the following table.

Figure: 25 TAC §265.13(r)(1)

(2) Water pressure. The system shall be designed to maintain a minimum pressure of 35 pounds per square inch (psi) at all points within the distribution network at flow rates of at least 1.5 gallons per minute per connection. When the system is intended to provide fire fighting capability, it shall also be designed to maintain a minimum pressure of 20 psi under combined fire and drinking water flow conditions. Minimum distribution pressure shall not be less than 20 psi at any time.

(3) Bacteriological properties.

(A) Water systems serving camps shall submit a minimum of one water sample for testing for total coliform, fecal coliform, *E. coli*, or other fecal indicator organisms, for the month prior to camp opening and each month the camp is in operation.

(B) Testing for microbial contaminants shall be performed at a laboratory certified by TCEQ.

(C) If a routine distribution coliform sample is coliform-positive, then the camp shall issue a written boil water notification to all camp staff and volunteers. The notification shall state, "To ensure destruction of all harmful bacteria and other microbes, water for drinking, cooking, and ice making shall be boiled and cooled prior to consumption. The water shall be brought to a vigorous rolling boil and then boiled for two minutes. In lieu of boiling, purchased bottled water, water obtained from some other suitable source, or ice obtained from an approved source may be used."

(D) The boil water notification shall remain in effect until a repeat distribution coliform sample is coliform-negative.

(E) Records of all bacteriological tests and of any boil water notification shall be kept on site.

(4) Chemical properties.

(A) Camps shall submit a water sample obtained from the entry point to the distribution system to a laboratory for chemical analysis at least once every three years.

(B) The chemical analysis shall be for secondary constituent levels.

(C) Maximum secondary constituent levels are as described in the following table.

Figure: 25 TAC §265.13(r)(4)(C)

(D) Records of all chemical testing shall be kept on site.

(5) Minimum residual disinfectant concentrations and maximum residual disinfectant levels (MRDLs).

(A) The minimum residual disinfectant concentration in the water entering the distribution system and the water within the distribution system shall be 0.2 milligrams per liter (mg/L) free chlorine or 0.5 mg/L chloramine.

(B) The MRDL of chlorine dioxide in the water entering the distribution system shall be 0.8 mg/L.

(C) The MRDL of free chlorine or chloramine in the water within the distribution system shall be 4.0 mg/L based on a running annual average.

(6) Backflow prevention. The plumbing system shall preclude backflow of a solid, liquid, or gas contaminant into the water supply system at each point of use, including on a hose bib, by:

(A) providing an air gap between the water supply inlet and the flood level rim of a plumbing fixture, equipment, or nonfood equipment that is at least twice the diameter of the water supply inlet and not less than 25 mm (1 inch); or

(B) installing an approved backflow prevention device that meets the American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE) standards for construction, installation, maintenance, inspection, and testing for that specific application and type of device.

(7) Disinfection of new or repaired water system facilities.

(A) When repairs are made to existing mains or when new main extensions are installed, they shall be disinfected using such amounts of chlorine compounds as to fill the repaired or new mains and appurtenances with water containing 50 ppm chlorine.

(B) After the water containing this amount of chlorine, which is greater than that normally present in drinking water, has been in contact with the pipe and appurtenances for at least 24 hours, the main shall be flushed until the free chlorine or chloramine in the water within the new or repaired distribution system is less than 4.0 mg/L.

(C) A sample of water from the new or repaired main shall be submitted to a laboratory certified by TCEQ for bacteriological examination so as to be assured that the disinfection procedure was effective.

(8) Calcium hypochlorite. A supply of calcium hypochlorite disinfectant shall be kept on hand for use when making repairs and repairing line breaks.



(9) Lead control. Use of pipes and pipe fittings that contain more than 8.0% lead or solders and flux that contain more than 0.2% lead is prohibited for installation or repair of any water supply and for installation or repair of any plumbing in a residential or nonresidential facility providing water for human consumption. This requirement may be waived for lead joints that are necessary for repairs to cast iron pipe.

(10) Flushing of water system mains. All dead-end mains should be flushed at monthly intervals or more frequently to maintain water quality.

(11) Collection system location.

(A) No sanitary sewers or septic tanks shall be allowed within a distance of 50 feet of any well used for drinking water. No cesspool or septic tank open-jointed drain field shall be allowed within a distance of 150 feet of any well used for drinking water.

(B) Storm sewers located within specified distances for sanitary sewers shall be constructed so as to prevent leakage from them.

(C) Water lines and sanitary sewers shall be installed no closer to each other than nine feet.

(12) Well logs. Copies of well material setting data, geological log, sealing information (pressure cementing and surface protection), disinfection information, bacteriological sample results, and a chemical analysis report of a representative sample of water from the well shall be kept on file.

(13) Interconnection. No physical connection between the distribution system of a camp water supply and that of any other water supply shall be permitted.

(14) Abandoned wells. Abandoned water supply wells owned by the camp shall be plugged with cement according to 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 76 (relating to Water Well Drillers and Water Well Pump Installers). Wells that are not in use and are non-deteriorated as defined in those rules shall be tested every five years to demonstrate that they are in a non-deteriorated condition. Deteriorated wells shall be either plugged with cement or repaired to a non-deteriorated condition.

(s) Disposal of youth camp wastewater. All camp wastewater shall be disposed of into a community sanitary sewage system or an approved On-site Sewage Facility in accordance with 30 TAC, Chapter 285, On-Site Sewage Facilities. In remote areas, the use of chemical toilets or pit privies is allowed, if the facilities are built and maintained in accordance with manufacturer designs or the Texas Community Sanitation Handbook, Texas Department of Health, TDH 1/86 Stock No. 2-100. A copy of this handbook may be obtained from Texas Department of State Health Services, Policy, Standards and Quality Assurance Unit at (512) 834-6788.

(t) Disposal of solid waste. Solid wastes shall be disposed of at a TCEQ approved sanitary landfill or other disposal facility approved by TCEQ under 30 TAC, Chapter 330, Municipal Solid Waste.

(u) Permanent food preparation, storage and service areas. Permanent food preparation, storage and service areas shall be maintained in compliance with 25 TAC, Chapter 229, Subchapter K, Texas Food Establishments, §229.161 *et seq.*, as amended. Items inspected may include, but are not limited to:

- (1) proper cooling for cooked/prepared food;
- (2) cold hold (41 degrees Fahrenheit/45 degrees Fahrenheit);
- (3) hot hold (135 degrees Fahrenheit);
- (4) proper cooking temperatures;
- (5) rapid reheating (165 degrees Fahrenheit in 2 hrs);
- (6) personnel with infections restricted/excluded;
- (7) proper/adequate hand washing;
- (8) good hygienic practices (eating/drinking/smoking/other);
- (9) approved source/labeling;
- (10) sound condition - food is not from unapproved sources or in unsound condition;
- (11) proper handling of ready-to-eat foods;
- (12) no cross-contamination of raw/cooked foods/other;
- (13) approved systems (HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) plans/time as public health control);
- (14) water supply – approved sources/sufficient capacity/hot and cold water under pressure;
- (15) equipment adequate to maintain product temperature;
- (16) hand wash facilities adequate and accessible;

- (17) hand wash facilities equipped with soap and towels;
- (18) no evidence of insect contamination;
- (19) no evidence of rodents/other animals;
- (20) toxic items properly labeled/stored/used;
- (21) manual/mechanical warewashing and sanitizing at proper ppm/temperature;
- (22) manager demonstration of knowledge of safe food handling procedures;
- (23) approved sewage/wastewater disposal system, proper disposal;
- (24) thermometers provided/accurate/properly calibrated ( $\pm 2$  degrees Fahrenheit);
- (25) food contact surfaces of equipment and utensils cleaned/sanitized/good repair; and
- (26) posting of consumer advisories (abdominal thrust/disclosure/reminder/buffet plate).

(v) Playgrounds and equipment. Playgrounds and playground equipment shall meet the standards set forth in the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Publication Number 325, "Handbook for Public Playground Safety," April 2008 (<http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PUBS/325.pdf>) as amended. Equipment that does not meet these standards may not be used by campers.

Figure: 25 TAC §265.13(r)(1)

Type of Establishment	Minimum Gallons/Person/Day (GPD)
Youth camps without flush toilets, showers, or dining halls	6
Youth camps with flush toilets, but no showers or dining halls	24
Youth camps with flush toilets, showers, and dining halls	42
Camps with swimming pools – add this amount to GPD above	12

Figure: 25 TAC §265.13(r)(4)(C)

CONSTITUENT	LEVEL (mg/l except where otherwise stated)
Aluminum	0.05 to 0.2
Chloride	300
Color	15 color units
Copper	1.0
Corrosivity	Non-corrosive
Fluoride	2.0
Foaming agents	0.5
Hydrogen sulfide	0.05
Iron	0.3
Manganese	0.05
Odor	3 Threshold Odor Number
pH	>7.0
Silver	0.1
Sulfate	300
Total Dissolved Solids	1,000
Zinc	5.0

#### **§265.14. Primitive or Wilderness Camp.**

(a) Maintenance and operation of primitive campsites. Primitive campsites shall be maintained and operated in a safe and healthful manner.

(b) Drinking water at primitive camp, on hikes, or on trips away. Drinking water used at primitive camps and on hikes and trips away from permanent campsites shall be from a source known to be safe or shall be rendered safe.

(c) Toilet facilities at primitive campsites. Primitive campsites that are not provided with approved toilet facilities shall have a separate toilet area designated for each sex. Slit trenches or cat holes with a readily available supply of clean earth backfill or other disposal methods approved by the department's Policy, Standards and Quality Assurance Unit, shall be utilized for the disposal of human excreta in these areas. Approval shall be received in writing prior to implementation. Toilet areas shall be located at least 150 feet from a stream, lake, or well, and at least 75 feet from a campsite, tent, or other sleeping or housing facility.

(d) Disposal of solid wastes at primitive campsites. Solid wastes that are generated in primitive camps shall be disposed of at a TCEQ approved sanitary landfill or other disposal facility approved by TCEQ under 30 TAC, Chapter 330, Municipal Solid Waste.

(e) Food service at primitive campsites. Only foods that can be maintained in a wholesome condition with the equipment available shall be used at primitive camps.

(f) Use of hot water and detergent to wash food utensils. Hot water and detergent shall be used to wash all food utensils after each meal at primitive campsites.

(g) Supervision of campers at primitive camps. Campers utilizing primitive camps shall be adequately supervised at all times by a responsible adult who is knowledgeable concerning proper wilderness camping techniques. A minimum of one such supervising adult for each ten campers shall be maintained in the immediate vicinity (within sight and/or hearing) of the campers.

#### **§265.15. Medical and Nursing Care.**

(a) Record of an on-call physician required. Documentation shall be kept on file of a physician licensed to practice in Texas who is available to be on call at all times to advise health service personnel on all first aid and nursing services provided by the camp.

(b) Emergency transportation. Transportation shall be available at all times to transport any sick or injured camper in an emergency.

(c) Medical staffing requirements. A physician, registered nurse, licensed vocational nurse, or a person with an American Red Cross Emergency Response certificate, or its

equivalent, shall be in the camp and on call at all times, and will be considered the Camp Health Officer. For camps having documented evidence, such as a letter from the local emergency medical services (EMS), that the camp is located within a 20 minute community EMS response time, a person certified in American Red Cross Community First Aid and Safety, or its equivalent, shall be in the camp and on call at all times, and will be considered the Camp Health Officer.

(d) Requirement to report incidents of abuse or neglect of a minor.

(1) Requirement to report incidents of abuse or neglect of a minor at a youth camp. If a person, including any member of camp staff, a camp counselor, or camp director has cause to believe that a minor has been or may have been abused or neglected as those terms are defined in the Family Code, Chapter 261, and the abuse or neglect occurred at the youth camp, then that person shall immediately make a report, in accordance with Family Code, §261.101(a) to the Health and Human Services Commission Office of Inspector General, as required by Family Code, §261.103. To make an online report go to [https://oig.hhsc.state.tx.us/Fraud\\_Report\\_Home.aspx](https://oig.hhsc.state.tx.us/Fraud_Report_Home.aspx). A report intake form, entitled HHSE Office of Internal Affairs: Texas Youth Camp Waste, Abuse and Fraud Referral Form may be faxed to the Office of Inspector General, Internal Affairs, (512) 833-6493. A report shall be made to the Health and Human Services Commission Office of Inspector General and may be made to a local or state law enforcement agency or other agency listed in Family Code, §261.103.

§265.15(d) provides specific requirements for reporting abuse (sexual or physical) and neglect. The definitions and requirements refer to the Texas Family Code; it is significant to note that Chapter 261 of the Family Code requires reporting of alleged or suspected abuse or neglect.

§265.15(d)(1) provides the requirements for reporting incidents that occur at a youth camp; §265.15(d)(2) provides the requirements for reporting incidents that occur elsewhere.

It is critical that all staff and volunteers understand these requirements for reporting abuse and neglect.

(2) Requirement to report incidents of abuse or neglect of a minor other than at a youth camp. If a person, including any member of camp staff, a camp counselor, or camp director has cause to believe that a minor has been or may have been abused or neglected as those terms are defined in the Family Code, Chapter 261, and the abuse or neglect did not occur at the youth camp, then that person shall immediately make a report, in accordance with Family Code, §261.103.

(A) Except as provided by subparagraphs (B), (C) and (D) of this paragraph, a report shall be made to:

(i) any local or state law enforcement agency;

(ii) the Department of Family and Protective Services Abuse Hotline, which may be contacted at (800) 252-5400 or through the secure web site <http://www.txabusehotline.org/>; or

(iii) the agency designated by the court to be responsible for the protection of children.

(B) A report may be made to the Texas Youth Commission instead of the entities listed under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph if the report is based on information provided by a child while under the supervision of the commission concerning the child's alleged abuse of another child.

(C) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, a report, other than a report under subparagraph (D) of this paragraph, shall be made to the Department of Family and Protective Services if the alleged or suspected abuse or neglect involves a person responsible for the care, custody, or welfare of the child.

(D) A report of alleged abuse, neglect, or exploitation in any juvenile justice program or facility shall be made to the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and a local law enforcement agency for investigation.

(e) Requirement to report camper death or communicable diseases. Camper death or confirmed cases of waterborne or foodborne diseases, such as cholera, dysentery, typhoid, salmonellosis, shigellosis, or infectious hepatitis, shall be reported to the department's Policy, Standards, and Quality Assurance Unit, within 24 hours of occurrence (or confirmation in the case of disease) by fax (512-834-6707), or by email at the address found at [www.dshs.state.tx.us/youthcamp/default.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/youthcamp/default.shtm).

(f) Designation of a first aid area. A first aid area, used exclusively to handle health and emergency cases, shall be designated and suitably equipped. A first aid kit containing the items listed in this subsection shall be available in the first aid area.  
Figure: 25 TAC §265.15(f)

(g) Isolation of a child with a communicable disease. A child ill with a confirmed or suspected case of a communicable disease shall be isolated to provide safety to other children and quiet to the patient. Any child that is isolated shall be supervised as determined by the Camp Health Officer. A child with a staphylococcal skin infection is not required to be isolated, if the infection is kept completely covered by a bandage.

(h) Bound medical log required. A bound medical log, or other unalterable record keeping system, listing date, name of the patient, ailment, name of the Camp Health Officer, and the treatment prescribed shall be kept in the first aid area for the duration of the camp year for which the license is issued.

(i) Camper health records shall be kept on file. The first aid area shall keep a health record on each child with the child's name, allergies, immunizations, parent's name, address, and telephone number, and parent or guardian authorization for emergency medical care.

(j) Availability of an emergency telephone. The camp shall have a telephone readily available, preferably in the first aid area, for emergency use.

(k) Emergency plans required. A written plan of procedures to be implemented in case of a disaster, serious accident, epidemic, or fatality shall be formulated and posted in the camp's administrative on-site office or location. All camp staff and volunteers shall be made aware of this plan during the staff-training program or volunteer briefing. Documentation of this training shall be kept at the camp's administrative on-site office or location.

(l) Storing and dispensing prescription medication to campers. If a child is taking a prescription medication when he or she reports to camp, the medication shall be in the original container with the prescription label, and the medical staff shall place that medication, sharps, and related paraphernalia or devices in a lockable cabinet or other secure location that is not accessible to campers. The medication shall be administered by the Camp Health Officer or camp counselor, if authorized in writing by the Camp Health Officer. At no time shall the child be allowed to self-administer the medication without adult supervision. Medications needed for immediate use for life-threatening conditions (e.g., bee-sting medication, inhaler) and limited medications approved for use in first-aid kits may be carried by a camper or staff person. The camp shall have on file a written statement of medical necessity from the prescribing doctor or the written approval of the Camp Health Officer for any camper to carry medication and related paraphernalia or devices.

(m) Camp trip first aid kits. First aid kits containing the items listed in subsection (f) of this section shall be taken on all out-of-camp trips.

Figure: 25 TAC §265.15(f)

Item	Quantity
AN-101: 1" x 3" Fabric bandages, 16/bx	1
AN-146: 1" x 3" Adhesive plastic bandages, 16/bx	3
A-187: Fingertip fabric bandages, 8/bx	1
A-188: Knuckle fabric bandages, 8/bx	1
AN-205: 32 sq. in. Absorbent gauze compress, 1/bx	1
AN-266: 3" Compress bandage, off center, 2/bx	1



AN-5071: Triangular sling/bandage, 1/bx	2
AN-206: 3" x 3" Gauze dressing pads, 4/bx	2
AN-337: Antiseptic cleansing wipes (sting free), 10/bx	1
A-338: Povidone-iodine infection control wipes, 10/bx	2
AN-5111: 1/2" x 2.5 yd. Adhesive tape, 2/bx	1
AN-5112: Exam quality gloves, 2pr/bx	1
AN-404: Burn relief packs, 6/bx	2
A-5113: Rescue Breather™ CPR one-way valve faceshield, 1/bx	1
B-503: 4" x 5" Instant cold compress, 1/bx	1
B-717: 2 Sterile eye pads, 1 oz. eye wash, 1/2" x 5 yd. first aid tape roll, 1/bx	1
BK-009: 96 pg. AMA First Aid Guide booklet	1

## §265.16. Waterfront Safety.

(a) Adult waterfront director required at youth camps. An adult waterfront director, who holds a current lifeguard certificate or its equivalent, shall be in charge of all waterfront activities. While waterfront activities are in progress, the waterfront director or an adult certified lifeguard assistant shall be in the immediate vicinity (within sight and/or hearing) of the campers, supervising the program.

(b) Responsibilities of the waterfront director. The waterfront director is to be responsible for all waterfront supervision procedures and is responsible for ensuring that the waterfront procedures are strictly enforced. The waterfront staff shall not engage in personal recreational swimming, boating or any other waterfront activity while on waterfront duty. For every 35 campers, or fraction thereof, engaged in waterfront activities, there shall be one certified lifeguard and one additional person (either a certified lifeguard or trained adult lookout) on duty. Camps utilizing natural bodies of water such as rivers, lakes, or creeks may need to increase this ratio.

(c) Maintenance and operation of swimming areas.

(1) Swimming areas shall be maintained and operated in a safe and clean condition. Youth camp swimming pools are class C pools, and shall be built, operated, and maintained in accordance with 25 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 265, General Sanitation, Subchapter L, Standards for Public Pools and Spas.

(2) Interactive water features and fountains at youth camps shall be maintained and operated in a safe and clean condition. Interactive water features and fountains at youth camps shall be built, operated, and maintained in accordance with 25 TAC, Chapter 265, General Sanitation, Subchapter M, Interactive Water Features and Fountains.

(d) Camper's swimming ability shall be determined in accordance with the camp's written swimming test policy. Camps shall test to determine each child's swimming ability. Children shall then be confined to the limits of swimming skills for which they have been classified. Also, the swimming area shall have areas for non-swimmers, intermediate swimmers, and swimmers clearly marked.

(e) Checking bathers in and out of the water. A method of checking bathers in and out of the water shall be established and enforced.

(f) Waterfront lifesaving equipment shall be provided. Lifesaving equipment suitable for the waterfront activity shall be provided at the waterfront activity area and placed so the equipment is immediately available in case of an emergency. All lifesaving equipment shall be kept in good repair and ready condition. At a minimum, this equipment shall include the following.

(1) A rescue tube or rescue buoy with strap, or a ring buoy that is approved by the United States Coast Guard that has an outside diameter of 15 to 24 inches attached to a throwing rope that is 20 feet or longer with a diameter of 1/4-inch to 3/8-inch

(2) One or more backboards with a minimum of 3 tie down straps and head immobilizer for back and neck injuries.

(3) A first aid kit that includes the items listed in §265.15(f) of this title (relating to Waterfront Safety).

(g) Providing a personal flotation device. A Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD) shall be readily available for each occupant of a watercraft. Each occupant of a watercraft 12 years of age and under shall wear a United States Coast Guard (USCG) approved inherently buoyant Type II PFD, or Near-Shore Buoyancy Vest at all times while in the watercraft. A non-swimmer shall wear a USCG approved inherently buoyant Type II PFD, or Near-Shore Buoyancy Vest and not be permitted in a watercraft unless accompanied by a counselor. A camper shall wear a vest type USCG approved preserver before entering and while in white water or before entering and while on a lake when the water is rough or while waterskiing.

(h) Location of swimming areas. Swimming areas shall be used exclusively for swimming while swimming is occurring. A watercraft docking area shall not be allowed in the swimming area and waterskiers shall not launch, cross, or stop in the swimming area while swimming is occurring.

#### **§265.17. Program Safety and Equipment.**

(a) Firearm or pellet gun programs at youth camps. A firearm or pellet gun program shall be conducted on a range that meets or exceeds the specifications outlined by the National Rifle Association or its equivalent. Safety procedures shall be enforced whenever the range is in use. The range shall be conspicuously marked and configured to prevent entry of campers onto the range while it is in use.

(b) Archery program at youth camps. An archery program shall be conducted on a range that meets or exceeds the specifications outlined by the National Field Archery Association or its equivalent. The archery range shall be conspicuously marked and configured to prevent entry of campers onto the range while it is in use.

(c) Program equipment condition and use. Equipment used in all programs shall be kept in good condition and present no hazard as a result of poor condition to the user at any time.

(d) Storage of firearms, pellet guns, and archery equipment when not in use. Firearms, pellet guns, ammunition, and archery equipment shall be kept in a secured area when not in use.

(e) Safety and maintenance of tools used by campers. All tools, including power tools,

used by campers shall be maintained in good repair, shall have the necessary safety guard attached, and shall be used only under supervision.

(f) Horseback riding programs. Camps providing horseback riding programs shall require the head instructor or director of the program to follow the camp's riding program and safety procedures outlined in a written document. This document shall include the following:

- (1) procedures to be followed in the event of an accident;
- (2) procedures to determine each horse's suitability for safe use;
- (3) proper care of tack and equipment;
- (4) proper procedure for mounting;
- (5) the number of riders per supervisor, and

(6) any other information that is specific to the camp's equestrian program or is helpful to the horseback riding director.

(g) Record keeping and care of horses. Camps providing horseback riding programs shall:

- (1) ensure that horses that are in use are sound and in good physical condition;
- (2) ensure that the stable area is kept clean and free of all hazards; and
- (3) require all riders (campers and instructional staff) to wear hardhats.

(h) Adventure/challenge courses. Camps providing an adventure/challenge program utilizing belaying, spotting, or non-spotting elements must:

- (1) designate a certified adventure/challenge program manager, who shall be in attendance whenever the adventure/challenge program is operating;
- (2) ensure that the adventure/challenge program is operated and maintained in a safe manner;
- (3) develop a set of site-specific policies and procedures, which establish criteria for all adventure/challenge operations, including equipment used and safety precautions;
- (4) ensure that spotters and belayers are instructed in the proper procedures prior to assuming their duties, and that they are directly supervised until competency is demonstrated;

(5) establish a method to control access to the equipment and the activity area in order to prevent use by unauthorized or unsupervised campers;

(6) perform safety checks of all equipment and ropes prior to each use and maintain a record of all inspections and maintenance;

(7) provide a safety orientation for each camper prior to allowing the camper to engage in adventure/challenge activities;

(8) ensure that all campers engaged in adventure/challenge activities are wearing appropriate personal protective equipment; and

(9) provide documentation of an annual physical inspection of the adventure/challenge course and equipment by an insured third party inspector.

#### §265.18. Fire Prevention.

(a) Fire and safety codes. Facilities at all youth camps shall meet local fire and safety codes.

(b) Fire exits in buildings. All buildings in which groups of people live, eat, sleep, or assemble shall be provided with ready exits for use in case of fire and these exits shall be conspicuously marked.

(c) Disaster and evacuation procedures. All youth camps that provide permanent or semi-permanent structures for group living, eating, sleeping, or assembly shall have disaster and evacuation procedures outlined in writing. These procedures shall be reviewed by the staff with specific assignments made to each staff member and counselor. All campers shall be instructed as to their actions in the event of fire, disaster, or the need to evacuate.

(d) Storage of flammable or explosive materials. Containers of gasoline, flammables, or explosives shall be plainly marked and stored in a locked area separate and apart from any and all permanent and semi-permanent structures used by campers. The presence of such materials shall be kept to a minimum.

### **§265.19. Maintenance and Safe Use of Motor Vehicles.**

(a) Inspection of vehicles used for transportation of campers. Any vehicle used for transporting children on public roadways shall have all current and applicable Department of Public Safety vehicle inspections.

(b) First aid kits in vehicles transporting campers or staff. Every vehicle used for transporting staff or campers off site shall be equipped with a first aid kit containing the items listed in §265.15(f) of this title (relating to Waterfront Safety) and emergency equipment such as fire extinguishers, tools, and flares.

(c) Drivers shall have a valid driver's license. All drivers shall be adults and hold a valid driver's license appropriate for the type of vehicle being driven.

### **§265.20. Farm and Domestic Animals.**

(a) Location of animals. Horses and other animals maintained at any camp shall be quartered at a reasonable distance from any sleeping, living, eating, or food preparation area.

(b) Location of stables or corrals. Stables and corrals shall be located so as to prevent contamination of any water supply. Manure shall be removed from stalls and corrals as often as necessary to prevent a fly problem.

(c) Animals in waterfront areas prohibited. Horses, dogs, or other domestic animals or pets shall not be permitted on a bathing beach or in the water near the beach when in use for waterfront activities.

(d) Rabies vaccinations of animals. All dogs and cats owned or under the supervision of anyone on the camp premises shall be currently vaccinated against rabies in compliance with Health and Safety Code, §826.021. Evidence of vaccination shall be provided to a department representative upon request.

### **§265.21. Insect and Rodent Control.**

(a) Prevention of insect, rodent or other pest infestations. The camp management shall maintain every building used or intended for human habitation in a manner to keep it free from insects, rodents, and other pests.

(b) Storage of chemical control agents. Chemical control agents, insecticides, rodenticides, and other hazardous chemicals shall have the containers plainly marked and be stored in a locked area not accessible to campers. The presence of such chemicals shall be kept to a minimum.

**§265.22. Nudity Prohibited.** A youth camp may not allow campers or staff to be nude except when bathing, showering, changing clothing, or receiving medical care.

**§265.23. Application and Denial of a New License; Non-transferable.**

(a) License required. A person shall possess a valid youth camp license prior to operating a youth camp.

(1) Submitting an application. An application is made by submitting:

(A) a completed youth camp application;

(B) an activity schedule showing dates and detailed information about the activities that are conducted both at the camp and at other locations;

(C) any other requested documents and information; and

(D) paying the license fee as described in §265.28 of this title (relating to Fees).

(2) Obtaining an application. A blank application may be obtained by calling the Environmental and Sanitation Licensing Group at (512) 834-6600, or may be downloaded from the website at [www.dshs.state.tx.us/youthcamp/default.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/youthcamp/default.shtm). Applications may be submitted to the Environmental and Sanitation Licensing Group, Department of State Health Services, Mail Code 2003, P.O. Box 149347, Austin, Texas 78714-9347.

(3) Qualifying for a youth camp license. The department shall issue a license if the facility:

(A) meets the definition of a "Youth camp" as described in §265.11.(24) of this title (relating to Definitions);

(B) meets the definition of "Youth camp, general characteristics of:" in §265.11(24) of this title; and

(C) is in compliance, or has demonstrated a plan for compliance, with all provisions of the Act and the rules prior to operation as determined by:

(i) submitting a complete application as described in paragraph (1) of this subsection; and

(ii) passing a pre-licensing inspection conducted by the department, using the standard youth camp inspection form that may be found at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/youthcamp/forms.shtm>.

(b) Processing applications.

(1) Applications for a new license issued under this chapter shall be submitted to the Environmental and Sanitation Licensing Group at least 90 calendar days prior to camp operation.

(2) The department shall issue the new license or a written notice that the application is complete or that the application is deficient within the following periods of time. The department shall identify deficiencies in the notice, provide a deadline by which the deficiencies shall be corrected, and inform the applicant of the need for a pre-licensing inspection. Deficiencies may include the failure to provide required information, documents, or fees. An application is not considered complete until all required documentation, information, and fees have been received.

(A) Letter of acceptance of application for licensure approving the license and authorizing operation after successfully passing the pre-licensing inspection - within 30 days after the date of passing the pre-licensing inspection. The original license may serve as the letter of acceptance.

(B) Letter of application deficiency - within 30 days after receipt of a deficient application.

(C) Letter of pre-licensing inspection deficiency - a notice of deficiency will be issued to the camp representative on site at the conclusion of the pre-licensing inspection if any deficiencies were noted during the inspection. The camp shall provide documentation that all deficiencies have been corrected within 10 days of the inspection or prior to camp operation, whichever comes first.

(3) In the event that an application for a new license is not processed within the timeframe established in paragraph (2)(A) of this subsection, and no good cause exists for the delay, the applicant has the right to request reimbursement of all fees paid in that particular application process so long as a complete application was submitted at least 90 calendar days prior to camp operation. Requests for reimbursement shall be made in writing to the Environmental and Sanitation Licensing Group. Good cause for exceeding the time period is considered to exist if the number of applications for licensure exceeds by 15% or more the number of applications processed the same calendar quarter of the preceding year or any other condition exists giving the department good cause for exceeding the time period.

(4) If the request for reimbursement as authorized by paragraph (3) of this subsection is denied, the applicant may then appeal to the commissioner for a resolution of the dispute. The applicant shall give written notice to the commissioner requesting reimbursement of the fee paid because the application was not processed within the established time period. The department shall submit a written report of the facts related to the processing of the application and good cause for exceeding the established time periods. The commissioner shall make the



final decision and provide written notification of the decision to the applicant and to the department.

(c) Record availability. All records, except criminal background and sex offender registration database checks, required by these rules shall be made available to the department immediately upon request. Criminal background and sex offender registration database checks shall be made available to the department within two business days upon request.

(d) Term of license. The term of a youth camp license shall be one year, beginning on the date of issuance.

(e) License non-transferable. A youth camp license is not transferable and may not be sold, assigned, or otherwise transferred. Any new entity that acquires the operation of a youth camp through sale, assignment, or other transfer shall obtain a new license.

(f) Ownership change. A new application, fee, pre-licensing inspection, and license is required if there is a change in ownership.

(g) Name change. If a camp changes its name during operation, but does not change location or ownership, then a new license certificate may be issued if requested using the form designated by the department, available at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/youthcamp/forms.shtm>, accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of \$20.

(h) Location change. A new application, fee, pre-licensing inspection, and license is required if there is a change in physical camp location.

(i) Duplicate license. A duplicate license may be issued if requested using the form designated by the department, available at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/youthcamp/forms.shtm>, accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of \$20.

(j) Denials.

(1) The department may deny an application for licensing to those who fail to meet the standards established by these rules. When the department proposes to deny an application, it shall give notice of the proposed action in writing and shall provide information on how to request an administrative hearing. The applicant shall make a written request for a hearing within 30 days from the date on the notice letter sent by the department. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the Act, the Administrative Procedure Act, Government Code, Chapter 2001, and the formal hearing procedures of the department at 25 Texas Administrative Code, §1.21 et seq.

(2) A letter of denial of licensure may be issued within 60 days of the receipt of application if the applicant does not meet the requirements of subsection (a)(3)(A) or (B) of this section.

(3) A letter of denial of licensure may be issued if the applicant does not meet the requirements of subsection (a)(3)(C) of this section:

(A) within 60 days following the first scheduled date of camp operations if a pre-licensing inspection has not been completed; or

(B) within 60 days following the first scheduled date of camp operations if the camp does not pass the pre-licensing inspection.

(4) A license holder whose license has been denied or revoked may not reapply for a new license for two years from the date of final denial or revocation.

**(k) Refunds.**

(1) If the applicant does not meet the requirements of subsection (a)(3)(A) or (B) of this section, the application may be denied and the license fee, less a handling fee of \$50, may be refunded. If an application is denied because the facility does not meet the requirements of subsection (a)(3)(A) or (B) of this section, the applicant should determine if a license from another agency is required.

(2) If the applicant does not meet the requirements of subsection (a)(3)(C) of this section, the application may be denied and the license fee may not be refunded.

**§265.24. Application and Denial of a Renewal License.**

(a) Renewal of a youth camp license. A person holding a license under the Act shall renew the license annually before the license expires.

(b) Renewal notice. At least 60 days before a license expires, the department, as a service to the licensee, shall send a renewal notice to the licensee or registrant, by first-class mail to the last known address of the licensee. It remains the responsibility of the licensee to keep the department informed of the licensee's current address and to take action to renew the license whether or not they have received the notification from the department. The renewal notice shall state:

- (1) the type of license requiring renewal;
- (2) the time period allowed for renewal; and
- (3) the amount of the renewal fee.

(c) Renewal requirements. Renewal applications and fees shall be submitted to the department prior to the license's annual expiration date.

(1) Submitting an application. A renewal application is made by submitting:

(A) a completed youth camp renewal application;

(B) an activity schedule showing dates and detailed information about the activities that are conducted both at the camp and at other locations;

(C) any other requested documents and information; and

(D) paying the renewal license fee as described in §265.28 of this title (relating to Fees).

(2) Obtaining an application. A blank renewal application may be obtained by calling the Environmental and Sanitation Licensing Group at (512) 834-6600, or may be downloaded from the website at [www.dshs.state.tx.us/youthcamp/default.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/youthcamp/default.shtm). Renewal applications may be submitted to the Environmental and Sanitation Licensing Group, Department of State Health Services, Mail Code 2003, P.O. Box 149347, Austin, Texas 78714-9347.

(3) Qualifying for renewal of a youth camp license. The department shall issue a renewal license if the facility:

(A) meets the definition of a "Youth camp" as described in §265.11(24) of this title (relating to Definitions);

(B) meets the definition of "Youth camp, general characteristics of:" in §265.11(25) of this title; and

(C) is in compliance with all provisions of the Act and the rules prior to operation as determined by:

(i) submitting a complete renewal application as described in this subsection;

(ii) passing a pre-licensing inspection conducted by the department, if required; and

(iii) complying with all final orders resulting from any violations of these sections before the application for renewal is submitted.

(d) Processing renewal applications.

(1) Applications for license renewal under this chapter shall be received by the Environmental and Sanitation Licensing Group prior to the expiration date of the license or 45 days prior to camp operation, whichever is earlier.

(2) The department shall issue the renewal license or a written notice that the renewal application is complete or that the renewal application is deficient within the following periods of time from the date of receipt of the renewal application. The department shall identify deficiencies in the notice and provide a deadline by which the deficiencies shall be corrected in order for the department to renew the license or to schedule the pre-licensing inspection if required. Deficiencies may include the failure to provide required information, documents, or fees, or the failure to schedule or successfully pass the pre-licensing inspection if required. An application is not considered complete until all required documentation, information, and fees have been received. If a camp is subject to pre-licensing inspection, the time period for issuing a letter of acceptance of application for license renewal begins upon successfully passing inspection.

(A) Letter of acceptance of application for license renewal approving the license and authorizing operation - within 30 days. The original license may serve as the letter of acceptance.

(B) Letter of renewal application deficiency - within 30 days after receipt of a deficient renewal application.

(C) Letter of pre-licensing inspection deficiency - a notice of deficiency will be issued to the camp representative on site at the conclusion of the pre-licensing inspection if any deficiencies were noted during the inspection. The camp shall provide documentation that all deficiencies have been corrected within 10 days of the inspection or prior to camp operation, whichever comes first.

(3) In the event that a timely and complete application for license renewal is not processed within timeframe established in paragraph (2)(A) of this subsection, and no good cause exists for the delay, the applicant has the right to request reimbursement of all fees paid in that particular application process. Requests for reimbursement shall be made in writing to the Environmental and Sanitation Licensing Group. Good cause for exceeding the time period is considered to exist if the number of applications for licensure exceeds by 15% or more the number of applications processed the same calendar quarter of the preceding year or any other condition exists giving the department good cause for exceeding the time period.

(4) If the request for reimbursement as authorized by paragraph (3) of this subsection is denied, the applicant may then appeal to the commissioner for a resolution of the dispute. The applicant shall give written notice to the commissioner requesting reimbursement of the fee paid because the application was not processed within the established time period. The department shall submit a written report of the facts related to the processing of the application and good cause for exceeding the established time periods. The commissioner shall make the

final decision and provide written notification of the decision to the applicant and to the department.

(e) Late renewal. If a license is not renewed within one year after the expiration date, the license may not be renewed. A new license may be obtained by submitting a new application in compliance with §265.23 of this title (relating to Application and Denial of a New License; Non-transferable). If the license is renewed after its expiration date, the renewed license shall expire on the date the license would have expired had it been renewed timely.

(f) Non-renewal. The department may refuse to renew a license if the applicant has not complied with all final orders resulting from any violations of these sections. Eligibility for license renewal may be reestablished by meeting all conditions of the orders and complying with the requirements of this section. The department may not renew the license of a youth camp that has not corrected deficiencies identified in a final order before the application for renewal is submitted. Evidence of corrections, such as photography or documentation satisfactory to the department, shall be submitted to and approved by the Environmental Health Enforcement Unit of the Division for Regulatory Services prior to submitting the renewal application to the Regulatory Licensing Unit of the Division.

(g) Application determination affecting license expiration. If a license holder makes timely and sufficient application for the renewal of a license, the existing license does not expire until the application has been finally determined by the department. If the application is denied, the existing license does not expire until the last day for seeking review of the agency order or a later date fixed by order of the reviewing court.

(h) Reapplication for license upon denial or revocation. A license holder whose license has been denied or revoked may not reapply for a new license for two years from the date of final denial or revocation.

(i) Opportunity for a hearing. When the department proposes to deny an initial or renewal application, it shall give notice of the proposed action in writing and shall provide information on how to request an administrative hearing. The applicant shall make a written request for a hearing within 30 days from the date on the notice letter sent by the department.

(j) Pre-licensing inspections. A youth camp applying for a license renewal may be subject to a pre-licensing inspection. Youth camps shall be in compliance with all provisions of the Act and the rules prior to operation.

(k) Denials.

(1) The department may deny a renewal application for licensing to those who fail to meet the standards established by these rules. Prior to denying a renewal license, the department shall give the applicant an opportunity for a hearing. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the Act, the Administrative Procedure Act, Government Code, Chapter 2001,

and the formal hearing procedures of the department at 25 Texas Administrative Code, §1.21 *et seq.*

(2) A letter of denial of license renewal may be issued within 60 days of the receipt of application if the applicant does not meet the requirements of subsection (c)(3)(A) or (B) of this section.

(3) A letter of denial of license renewal may be issued within 60 days following the first scheduled date of camp operations if the applicant does not meet the requirements of subsection (c)(3)(C) of this section.

#### (l) Refunds.

(1) If the applicant does not meet the requirements of subsection (c)(3)(A) or (B) of this section, the renewal application may be denied and the renewal license fee, less a handling fee of \$50, may be refunded. If an applicant is denied because the facility does not meet the requirements of subsection (c)(3)(A) or (B) of this section, the applicant should determine if a license from another agency is required.

(2) If the applicant does not meet the requirements of subsection (c)(3)(C) of this section, the renewal application may be denied and the renewal license fee may not be refunded.

### §265.25. Inspections.

(a) Inspections and corrections. An employee or agent of the department may enter any property for which a license is issued in accordance with the Act, property for which a license application to operate a youth camp is pending, or property on which a youth camp is operating without a license to investigate and inspect conditions relating to the health and safety of the campers. An employee or agent of the department who enters a youth camp to investigate and inspect conditions shall:

(1) notify the person in charge of the camp of the inspector's presence and shall present proper credentials;

(2) notify the person in charge of the camp or the person's designee of any violations as they are discovered; and

(3) allow the camp to correct the violations while the investigation and inspection is occurring.

(b) Investigation or inspection may not be delayed. An employee or agent of the department may not extend or delay an investigation or inspection in order to allow the youth camp to correct a violation noted during the investigation or inspection.

(c) Interference with an inspection. A department representative in pursuance of his/her official duties is not required to seek permission to conduct inspections or investigations. It is a violation of the Act for a person to interfere with, deny, or delay an inspection or investigation conducted by a department representative.

#### **§265.26. Civil Penalties and Injunctions.**

(a) A person violating the Act or a rule or order adopted under the Act is subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$50 or more than \$1,000 for each act of violation.

(b) If it appears that a person has violated, is violating, or is threatening to violate the Act or a rule or order adopted under the Act, the department may bring a civil action in a district court for injunctive relief, a civil penalty, or both.

(c) The district court, upon finding that the person is violating the Act, or a rule or order adopted under the Act, shall grant injunctive relief, assess a civil penalty, or both, as warranted by the facts.

(d) The department may petition a district court for a temporary restraining order to immediately halt a violation or other action creating an emergency condition if it appears that a person is:

(1) violating or threatening to violate the Act or a rule or order adopted under the Act; or

(2) taking any other action that creates an emergency condition that constitutes an imminent danger to the health, safety, or welfare of campers, staff or visitors at a youth camp.

(e) An action under this section may be brought in the county in which the defendant resides or in which the violation or threat of violation occurs.

(f) If an action for injunctive relief under this section is granted by the court, the court may grant any prohibitory or mandatory injunction warranted by the facts, including temporary restraining orders, temporary injunctions, and permanent injunctions. The court shall grant injunctive relief without a bond or other undertaking by the department.

(g) An appellate court shall give precedence to an action brought under this section over other cases of a different nature on the docket of the court.

## §265.27. Revocation, Administrative Penalties, and Hearings.

### (a) License revocation.

(1) If the department finds that a violation of the Act or of a rule has occurred or is occurring at a youth camp for which a license has been issued, the department shall give written notice to the licensee setting forth the nature of the violation and demanding that the violation cease.

(2) The department may initiate proceedings to revoke the license if the licensee fails to comply with the notice to cease in the time and manner directed in the notice.

(b) Assessment of an administrative penalty. The Commissioner may assess an administrative penalty if a person violates the Act, a rule of the department, or an order of the commissioner issued under the Act or rules.

(c) Determination of the penalty amount. In determining the amount of the penalty, the commissioner shall consider:

- (1) previous compliance history;
- (2) the seriousness of the violation;
- (3) any hazard to public health and safety;
- (4) the person's demonstrated good faith; and
- (5) any other matters as justice may require.

(d) Administrative penalty limits. The administrative penalty may not exceed \$1,000 a day for each violation. Each day a violation continues may be considered a separate violation.

(e) Opportunity for a hearing. Prior to revoking a license or assessing an administrative penalty, the department shall give the person charged an opportunity for a hearing. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the Act, the Administrative Procedures Act, **Government Code, Chapter 2001, and the formal hearing procedures of the department at** 25 Texas Administrative Code §1.21 *et seq.*

(f) Violation severity levels. Violations shall be categorized into severity levels I, II, and III. Administrative penalties may be imposed for:

(1) Critical violations. Severity level I violations have or could have a direct or immediate negative effect on the health, safety, and welfare of campers or the operation and management of a youth camp. These violations are assessed at \$750 - \$1,000 per violation per day. Examples of severity level I violations include, but are not limited to:



- (A) operating a youth camp without a current license;
- (B) failing to report an incident of camper abuse or neglect of a camper as required;
- (C) providing drinking water from an unapproved source;
- (D) policies or procedures not being followed in a way that has a direct negative impact on camper health or safety;
- (E) unqualified or insufficient number of personnel staffing operations or activities;
- (F) criminal conviction and sex offender records not on file;
- (G) sexual abuse training and exam records not on file; and
- (H) interfering with, denying, or delaying an inspection or investigation conducted by a department representative.

(2) Serious violations. Severity level II violations are those that could threaten the health, safety, and welfare of campers or the operation and management of a youth camp. These violations are assessed at \$500 - \$750 per violation per day. Examples of severity level II violations include, but are not limited to:

- (A) written personnel practices and policies regarding camp and staff are not available as required;
- (B) staff members not informed regarding personnel and camp practice policies;
- (C) proper sanitation of all food utensils not achieved;
- (D) policies or procedures not being followed in a way that could threaten the health, safety, and welfare of campers or the operation and management of a youth camp;
- (E) swimming areas not maintained in clean condition; or
- (F) disaster and/or fire evacuation procedures are not posted properly.

(3) Significant violations. Severity level III violations are those of concern that if left uncorrected could lead to more serious circumstances. These violations are assessed at \$250 - \$500 per violation per day. Examples of severity level III violations include, but are not limited to:

- (A) toilets and bathing facilities not adequately lighted and ventilated;
- (B) docking and waterskiing permitted in the swimming area;
- (C) vehicles used to transport staff or campers not equipped with a first aid kit;
- (D) policies or procedures not being followed in a way that if left uncorrected could lead to more serious circumstances; and
- (E) unauthorized nudity allowed.

**§265.28. Fees.**

- (a) The schedule of annual fees is as follows:
  - (1) initial license day youth camp--\$250;
  - (2) initial license residential youth camp--\$750;
  - (3) renewal license day youth camps operating less than 10 days per year--\$50;
  - (4) renewal license day youth camps operating 10 or more days per year--\$150;
  - (5) renewal license residential youth camps operating less than 10 days per year--\$100; and
  - (6) renewal license residential youth camps operating 10 or more days per year--\$450.

**(b) Miscellaneous fees are as follows:**

- (1) duplicate license fee--\$20;
- (2) camp name change during operation--\$20; and
- (3) non-sufficient fund fee--\$20.

(c) Applicants may submit applications and renewal applications for a license under these sections electronically by the Internet through [texas.gov](http://texas.gov) at [www.texas.gov](http://www.texas.gov). The department is authorized to collect fees, in amounts determined by the Texas Online Authority, to recover costs associated with application and renewal application processing through [texas.gov](http://texas.gov).

(d) An applicant whose payment for the application and initial license fee is returned due to any reason including insufficient funds, account closed, or payment stopped shall be allowed to reinstate the application by remitting to the department a money order or check for guaranteed funds in the amount of the application and initial license fee plus the Non-Sufficient Fund Fee within 30 days after the date of receipt of the department's notice. An application is incomplete until the fee has been received and cleared through the appropriate financial institution.

(e) An applicant whose license has been approved and whose payment for the license fee is returned due to any reason including insufficient funds, account closed, or payment stopped shall remit to the department a money order or check for guaranteed funds in the amount of the license fee plus the Non-Sufficient Fund Fee within 30 days after the date of receipt of the department's notice. Failure to comply with this subsection renders the application and the license approval invalid.

(f) A license holder whose payment for the renewal fee is returned due to any reason including insufficient funds, account closed, or payment stopped shall remit to the department a money order or check for guaranteed funds in the amount of the renewal fee plus the Non-Sufficient Fund Fee within 30 days after the date of receipt of the department's notice. Failure to comply shall result in non-renewal of the license. If a renewal license has already been issued, it shall be invalid.

(g) Upon return unclaimed of the department's notice, as set out in subsections (c) - (e) of this section, the department shall mail the notice to the applicant or license holder by certified mail. If a money order or check for guaranteed funds is not received by the department's cashier within 30 days after the postmarked date on the certified mailing, the approval granted or license issued shall be invalid.

(h) The department may notify the applicant or the license holder's owner that the person has failed to comply with this section and that any approval granted or license issued is invalid.

(i) Initial application or renewal fees shall be refunded only if the fee amounts paid are in excess of the correct fee amount or if there is a double payment. The department shall not refund fees if the application was abandoned due to the applicant's failure to respond within 90 days to a written request from the department.

(j) All fees shall be submitted in the form of personal checks, certified checks, money orders, or checks from state agencies, municipalities, counties, or other political subdivisions of the state made payable to the department.

## **§265.29. Youth Camp Committees.**

### (a) Advisory committee.

(1) Committee appointment. The executive commissioner or his designee shall appoint a committee to:

(A) advise the executive commissioner in the development of standards and procedures;

(B) make recommendations to the executive commissioner regarding the content of the rules adopted to implement the Act; and

(C) perform any other functions requested by the executive commissioner in the implementation and administration of the Act.

(2) Advisory committee membership. The advisory committee shall not exceed nine members. At least two members shall be from the general public, and seven members shall be experienced camping professionals who represent the camping communities of the state and should reflect the geographic diversity of the state in proportion to the number of camps licensed by the department in each geographic area of the state.

(3) Filling a vacancy on the advisory committee. Any vacancy on the advisory committee will be filled by the executive commissioner or his designee in the same manner as other appointments to the advisory committee.

(4) Annual meeting required. The advisory committee will meet annually and at the call of the executive commissioner or his designee.

### (b) Training advisory committee.

(1) Training advisory committee appointment. The commissioner or his designee shall appoint a training advisory committee to advise the department and the executive commissioner in the development of criteria and guidelines for the training and examination

(2) Training advisory committee membership. The training advisory committee consists of not more than nine members including at least two members who represent the general public; and other members, who include experienced camping professionals representing the camping communities of this state, representatives of youth camps selected by the department, and representatives of the Council on Sex Offender Treatment established under Occupations Code, Chapter 110.

(3) Filling a vacancy on the training advisory committee. Any vacancy on the training advisory committee will be filled by the department in the same manner as other appointments to the training advisory committee.

(4) Meetings. The advisory committee shall meet at the call of the commissioner.

(c) Both committees.

(1) Staggered terms of service. Committee members shall serve for staggered six-year terms, with the terms of three members expiring on August 31 of each odd-numbered year.

(2) Adoption of committee rules of conduct and election of officers. The committee may adopt rules for the conduct of its own activities and may elect from among its members a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, and a secretary.

(3) Committee quorum. A simple majority of the members of the committee who are statutorily required to be appointed shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting official business.

(4) Committee meetings announced. The committee is not a “governmental body” as defined in the Open Meetings Act. However, in order to promote public participation, each meeting of the committee shall be announced and conducted in accordance with the Texas Government Code, Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551.

(5) Compensation or reimbursement of expenses. A committee member may not receive compensation or reimbursement of expenses for serving on a youth camp committee.