



# SAFETY POLICIES

*For your group*

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*Safety is of the utmost importance to our organization!  
As you plan for and lead your YWx trip, we strongly recommend these key safety policies on your trip.*

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## THREE-TOGETHER RULE

One critical safety measure is that no participant be in the vulnerable position of being alone or in the presence of just one other person. **The three-together rule states that student participants must always be in groups of three or more—whether at the mission site, during evening activities, at service sites or any other place during the week.** Any time participants leave the boundaries of the housing site, they must have an Adult Leader in their group.

The Three-Together Rule applies not only to groups of students, but to groups of Adult Leaders and students. In other words, you should never see a student alone with an adult – there should always be a third person present. This is for the mutual protection of adults and students, to avoid any impropriety or accusations of impropriety.

## SHOWER POLICIES

Youth and Adult Leaders should never take showers at the same time, both during scheduled shower times and during other activities involving showers (going to a pool, etc.) Because each shower facility is different, there are some other specific procedures that should be followed:

- ▶ When a YWx site has private shower stalls in the shower facility or housing site, specific shower times should be set so the youth and adults are not in the shower/changing area at the same time. The student time must still be supervised by having adults in the general vicinity of the shower area in case of an emergency.
- ▶ In situations where YWx uses a public shower facility and where other community members are showering at the same time as your group (e.g. YMCA or community center), two Adult Leaders (of the crew that is showering) should accompany youth into the shower facility building. They should make their presence audibly known to all in the shower area, by asking, “Is everyone alright in here?” The Adult Leaders who do this should be the same sex as those showering and should be close enough to hear what is going on in the shower area. The two Adult Leaders should wait until all YWx youth participants are finished before taking their showers for the day. This is so that privacy can be maintained between adult and student participants, even though it is a public facility. Bullying and other harassment issues can be greatly minimized with the presence of a responsible adult in these areas.
- ▶ As a rule, students should never be naked in front of each other. If students do not have private shower stalls, they must wear a swimsuit.

## SAFETY & APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

It’s important to be concerned about relational safety as well as physical safety. Relational safety primarily involves observing appropriate interpersonal boundaries and showing honor and respect for one another and for the belongings of others. When these principles are regularly communicated and followed, the risk of inappropriate behavior and harassment is reduced.

One of the ways to set expectations and educate participants on healthy behaviors is through a statement, “Safety and Appropriate Behavior at a YouthWorks Site,” which can be found on your Trip Resources page of the YW dashboard. We strongly recommend reading this at the start of your trip to your entire group.

*We hope that this information helps as you continue to prepare for your trip.  
For more safety information, refer to your YWx Planning Guide or feel free to contact us.*