

**Pacific Southwest Service Area (formerly PSWD) / Camp de
Benneville Pines Camping Ministries
Youth Con 2023
Adult Sponsor Guide**

I) The [PSWSA/Camp dBP Camping Ministries Youth Ministry Vision 2023](#)

II) Four Pillars of Youth Ministry Interdependence:

The Youth, their Family, the Congregation, and Beyond (Camp de Benneville Pines, PSWSA, PWR, and UUA)

-All four benefit from the youth's engagement in the broader movement. How do we amplify the learning that occurs at youth events and ensure that it returns / is shared to / with each of the other Pillars?

III) Adult Sponsors

- Recruitment - 25 years or older and at least 6 months of regular attendance in congregation
- Register your sponsors so we have a database for future events and you are organized and ready for the year's slate of offerings.
- Background Check - performed by the congregation or Camp de Benneville Pines
- Relationship with Youth - Knowing the youth is critical to support them at immersion events, particularly in the event of trauma or crisis.
- Only youth from home congregation - as a practice, we do not support sponsors sponsoring youth from outside their home congregation (See relationship above).

IV) Safety

A) Focus on [Restorative Practices](#)

B) Guidelines - We still maintain a 1:7 (or better!) ratio of adults to youth for every event.

C) Mandatory Reporting: All volunteers 18 and over, are required in the state of CA, to complete mandated reporter training. In our events,

we consider all adult volunteers mandatory reporters. If a participant evidences harm, indicates an intention to do harm to self or others, this must be immediately reported to the Adult Lead for the event.

- D) Requirements for attendance at programming: Youth should be regulars in their church's programs and offerings. Average attendance for at least one event per month is a suggested requirement. Congregations may set higher standards for their youth, as desired.
- E) Rule of Three: Youth are never to be alone with adults in a virtual space or in any electronic communication. Partnered adults count as a single person for the purposes of attaining critical mass.
- F) Social Media: Adults are to never friend youth on social media platforms. Before accepting friend requests, a conversation with the youth's DRE and / or family must occur. Rule of Three is observed at all times. Ephemeral posts via Snapchat or other platforms are never to be used.

V) Congregational Affiliation

Essential. Rationale - youth with no affiliation have no accountability outside of the event. Serious damage has been done to communities by youth with no affiliation or answerability to congregations or other covenanted institutions within the UUA.

VI) [Con Talk](#) - to occur with youth prior to attendance. Delivered by sponsors / DRE's (Please ignore or translate the aspects related to in person event norms and expectations).

VII) What Activities May Happen at Youth Cons/Camps?

- Empowerment through adult partnership
- Games
- Small Group Ministry
- Workshops
- Community Building / Beloved Community
- Spiritual Practices / Faith Development
- Worship

- Social Justice
- Sponsors at the event
 - Attend Sponsor Orientation
 - Support their youth
 - Check in periodically. Meal times are good times.
 - Write at least one supportive note per youth
 - Recommend modifications for specific youth in the event of issues
 - Participate in programming!
 - Don't overshadow youth or center your experiences in programs. These events and offerings are for the youth. Sharing should be kept to a minimum and the event should not be a place where adults are receiving ministry. Many of these offerings are developmental opportunities for youth and thus adults should not be the first or last to share in a group and also be copacetic with silent pauses and moments of fledgling youth leadership
 - Refer concerns about program to adult staff
 - Advocate for youth if they are invited to engage in Covenant Restoration Process
 - Stay for the entire event to help build community, support the youth, and take part in the covenant building and relational upkeep.
 - Have fun! Bring it home. Share.

IX) After the Event

-Allow the attendees to share and process their experience with youth groups and congregations. Share takeaways / learnings in service / church worship.

X) Questions? Email or call Marianne Swift-Gifford (Camping Ministries Director for Camp de Benneville Pines) cm@uucamp.org / 760-908-1799