



2022 Camping Standards

Accreditation Visit Training

April 2024

History – How Did We Get Here?

- 2004 – First accreditation visits completed – 78 camps
- 2002 – Introduction of Administrative Standards for Camps
- Revisions – 2007, 2010, 2014
- Virtual visits – 2018, 2019
- COVID – No VISITS – 2020, 2021, 2022
- 2021 – Camping Standards Working Group established
- 2022 – Revised Standards approved by GCE
- 2023 – Transition Year – Self-evaluation by camps
- 2024 – On-site visits resume by regional council team

Camping Standards Working Group

- Camp Representatives
 - Joe Richards (Pearce Williams Christian Centre),
 - Vicki Nelson (Lumsden Beach Camp);
 - Christie Chisholm (camp accreditor and former Camp Kidston staff/board member)
- Regional Council and General Council Staff
 - Jeffrey Dale – Shining Waters
 - Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa – Antler River Watershed, Western Ontario Waterways, Horseshoe Falls
 - Bev Oag – General Council Office

Why Now?

- Disconnect with wider United Church after restructuring
- Need a cost-effective program which meets needs of camps and the church
- Feeling of duplication between the provincial camping association programs and the United Church program

Objectives

- Insure original goals of the Program are met
- Identify key United Church components and mechanism to meet them
- Utilize provincial camping association accreditation as a benchmark to avoid duplication
- Ensuring connections are maintained and nurtured between camps and other levels of the church as well as internationally

Outcomes

- Standards have been abbreviated
- Focus on requirements specific to the United Church
- Utilization of provincial camping association accreditation award/standing
- Regional Council responsible for visits including completion of site visit tool
- General Council responsible for collecting required reporting

Board responsibility

- The Board is the body responsible for the operation of the camps
- To that end, it is the Board who is responsible to insure that the Provincial Camping Association standards and The United Church of Canada standards are met
- They may delegate the work required to meet the standards (and related legislation) to committees of the board or to staff
- They CANNOT delegate the responsibility

Standards and Criteria

- A. Provincial Camping Association
- B. Mission Statement and Theological Values
- C. Governance and Accountability
- D. Recordkeeping/Record Retention
- E. Leadership Training and Staff Manual
- F. Health and Safety
- G. Leadership Standards for Off-Site Activities and Adventure Camping

Elements of standards

- All standards are mandatory. The focus is on the elements that are unique to United Church requirements
- Three components may be used to evaluate if a standard has been met:
 - Physical documentation
 - Visitor observation (during site visit)
 - Discussion – during site visit or subsequent follow-up
- Standards Handbook
 - The actual standard
 - Statement/example of how the standard may be met

Accreditation Process

Preparing for the Visit

1. Regional Council will coordinate the scheduling of visits at a mutually agreed time while camp is in session
2. Visits are on a three-year schedule unless there is a need for a visit to occur before the three years elapse
3. Accreditation visiting team members should familiarize themselves with the Camping Standards and the Accreditation Visitation Assessment Tool prior to the visit

Accreditation Process

Visit Day

- The Regional Council visiting team will arrive on site as scheduled to conduct the visit. Board and staff representatives with knowledge of the camp and the accreditation standard requirements will participate in the on-site visit.

Setting the Tone

- Make introductions including each person's role at the camp and as part of the team
- Indicate you are there to support them in their ministry
- Ask them to tell you about the camp – successes, challenges, future plans – this is the time for them to tell their story
- Do a tour of the property. Look through the eyes of a camper, a staff person, a parent.
- Look beyond what the standards are asking for. Outside eyes often see what is overlooked in the day-to-day. Ask questions as opposed to making statements.

Accreditation Visit Tool

The Experience and the Data

Camp Name:			
Region:		Date of Visit:	
Visitation Team:			
Camp Representation:			

- Tool corresponds to the camping standards
- Start by identifying who is part of the visit; additional participants can be identified within the question area as to who provided information
- Questions are Yes or No – only area related to Off-site / Adventure Camping can be N/A

Accreditation Visit Tool

B. Mission Statement and Theological Values	YES	NO
1. The camp has a mission statement that is available to staff, volunteers, campers, and families in written form or publicly posted (property, website, brochures).		
2. The mission statement is reviewed, at minimum, every three years as documented in board minutes.		
3. The camp mission statement is included as part of staff training.		
4. The faith foundation of the camp is clearly reflected in the promotion of the camp (printed materials, website, mission statement).		
5. The camp includes a Christian education/faith formation program that reflects the theology, practices, and beliefs of The United Church of Canada.		

Add any comments in the boxes that provide a complete picture – where the information is found, dates, how it is implemented or description of the program

Boxes will expand as you type; use additional pages if necessary

BEFORE LEAVING

- Identify anything that needs follow-up and give a timeline for submitting information
 - For example, if paperwork was required or an answer to a question is needed to complete the report
 - Be specific who should receive the follow-up information
- Indicate that the decision will be coming from the national office

POST VISIT

- Visitation Team prepares report including the Site Visit tool and any additional information that is considered important
- Report is submitted to the Regional Council and the General Council office
- Based on summary report and received documentation, Duty of Care Program Coordinator will determine if all the requirements have been met and the status decision

POST VISIT

- As all standards are mandatory to receive Full Accreditation, camps will be advised of outstanding items that may be corrected and a timeline to submit
 - Example – annual reporting incomplete, documentation that exists but was not available at the time of the visit
- Program Coordinator for Duty of Care/Incorporated Ministries determines the decision to be granted.

QUESTIONS



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