Camps on Campus
Emerging Issues
Today’s Speakers

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Road Map

- **Part One**: Operations and Facilities
- **Part Two**: Staffing, Emergency Planning, Transportation, Health and Medical Care
- **Part Three**: Protecting Minors
Third Party Camps

62%

Estimated percent of UE higher education members that host at least one camp on campus operated by a third party.

These figures are based on 2015 underwriting application data.
Third Party Camps

- Advantages:
  - Experienced and dependable companies
  - Extensive camp staff training
  - Updated facilities and/or equipment
  - Opportunity for risk transfer
Third Party Camps – Example

A college held a math camp for youth. The program was operated by the college, but a third party provided the facilities and food service. A camper slipped and fell at lunch on third party property. When the camper made a claim for her medical bills, administrators discovered the agreement between the camp and the third party made the college responsible for losses arising out of the agreement—even those caused by the third party’s negligence.
Third Party Camps

- Disadvantages:
  - Poorly written contracts can fail to transfer risk to the third party
  - Exercising too much control over third parties leads to vicarious liability
Institution-Owned Camps

55%

Estimated percent of UE higher education members that own, operate, or control at least one camp on campus.

These figures are based on 2015 underwriting application data.
Institution-Owned Camps

- **Advantages**
  - Central planning and oversight
  - Control of camp staff hiring and training
  - Develop and apply campus-wide policies for protecting minors
Institution-Owned Camps

- Disadvantages
  - Approval process can be lengthy
  - Management of camps and campers takes time and resources
  - Fewer opportunities for risk transfer
Part One

Facilities and Equipment

- Inspections of camp facilities and equipment should include:
  - Classrooms
  - Theaters
  - Labs
  - Arts studios
  - Athletic facilities
  - Parking lots
  - Housing
  - Food service
  - Health facilities
A design school conducted an art camp for children. One of the art forms taught at the camp was firing pottery in a kiln. Although art faculty knew that one of the “spyholes” that artists use to look inside the kiln was somewhat leaky, this information was not passed on to camp staff. One of the campers stood too close to the spyhole and her shorts caught on fire. The camper suffered third degree burns on her leg.
Facilities and Equipment

- Providing proper equipment means:
  - Quality of equipment is adequate for the activity
  - Equipment is used for its intended purpose
  - The equipment is repaired and maintained
  - Equipment is retired as necessary
  - All customary safety adjustments are made to equipment
  - No unauthorized use is allowed
Facilities and Equipment

- Americans with Disabilities Act:
  - “[O]rganizations may not prohibit an individual with a disability from participation in or the benefits of programs, services, and activities on the basis of disability.”
Question and Answer Session
Staffing, Emergency Planning, Transportation, Health and Medical Care
A university coach was short-staffed for a volleyball camp. A volleyball coach from a local independent school was hired at the last minute, but did not undergo the same background check and training process as other staff. The coach was alone with a camper when inappropriate touching took place. The institution settled the case for several hundred thousand dollars given its poor hiring and supervision practices.
Staffing

- External resources for background checks:
  - The Department of Justice’s national sex offender registry: www.nsopw.gov
  - EduRisk Resources such as “Checklist for Protecting Minors on Campus: Screening Employees and Visitors”
Staffing

- Background checks at Lipscomb:
  - Conducted every 2 years
  - All camp staff – including volunteers – undergo background checks
  - A guide to Lipscomb policies is distributed to all camp staff
Staffing

- Staff training at Lipscomb includes:
  - Supervision of children
  - Inappropriate touching
  - Field trips and transportation
  - First aid
  - Emergency procedures
  - Child abuse reporting
  - Incident reporting
  - Drop-off and pick-up procedures
  - Overnight camps
  - Other Lipscomb policies
A college hosted a summer camp and one of the activities was swimming in the campus pool. A lifeguard saw a girl hit her head and immediately activated the emergency response plan. Campus security was nearby and knew how to direct emergency medical response to the quickest route to the pool. The girl was strapped to a back board and taken to a trauma center nearby. Quick-thinking by all of these people helped minimize the camper’s injuries.
Emergency Planning

- Emergency planning at Lipscomb includes:
  - Putting camps and summer programs on campus security calendars
  - Bringing in extra security for larger camps
  - Distributing emergency medical guides to camp staff
Emergency Planning

- Accommodating campers with disabilities:
  - Do evacuation plans consider wheelchairs?
  - What special equipment or devices are necessary?
  - How will staff and campers who need assistance find each other quickly?
Transportation

- All vehicles should be equipped to accommodate campers with special needs, such as:
  - IEPs
  - 504 plans
  - Physical, visual, and hearing limitations
Health and Medical Care

- Collecting camper health information:
  - Respond appropriately to specific camper needs
  - Do not screen campers based on health concerns
  - Department of Justice recently investigated a camp in Maryland held on a university campus
Question and Answer Session
Part Three

Protecting Minors

Visit the Protecting Children Learning Program:
www.eduriskolutions.org/learn-to-protect-children
Protecting Minors

- Create a written policy that includes:
  - Registration requirements for programs involving minors
  - Age, experience, or employment requirements for individuals who oversee programs involving minors
  - Obligations for reporting suspected child abuse, harassment, or discrimination
  - A procedure for notifying the child’s parent or guardian in case of incident or emergency
Protecting Minors – Example

At a college summer camp two boys (one in third grade and another in sixth grade) were unsupervised in the restroom. The sixth grader took advantage of the situation by inappropriately touching the third grader. Another camper witnessed the event and told camp staff. The third grader’s family threatened to sue the college for negligent supervision.
Title IX

- Sexual misconduct against minors—whether perpetrated by other campers, college employees, volunteers, or contractors—is a form of discrimination covered by Title IX.
### Adequate supervision

- Lipscomb’s ratios are based on guidelines from the American Camp Association:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age of Campers</th>
<th>Staff to Camper Ratios</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overnight Camps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 years or younger</td>
<td>1:5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-8 years</td>
<td>1:6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-14 years</td>
<td>1:8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-18 years</td>
<td>1:10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Protecting Minors – Example

An assistant tennis coach befriended two campers at a summer program and told them they would be well-served by outside tennis lessons. The assistant coach conducted the lessons on college property, but later the two young females alleged he invited them back to his apartment and offered them alcohol via WhatsApp, the social messenger application.
Protecting Minors

- Consider restricting outside contact between camp staff and campers, including on social media platforms
- Provide staff with examples of appropriate and inappropriate touching between camp staff and campers
Protecting Minors

- Special considerations for overnight camps:
  - Supervision of sleeping units
  - No sharing of beds or sleeping bags between staff and campers
  - Adults should not shower, bathe, or undress in the presence of minors
  - Set and follow curfews
Question and Answer Session
Thank you for attending!

Please visit www.edurisksolutions.org for more information on camps and other topics.