Activity Worker Guidelines
(Activity Directors: Provide one copy of this document to Activity Worker)

The following guidelines were developed to avoid questionable contact between Activity Workers and youth participants. The preferred method is to avoid private one-on-one interactions and always have another adult observer present during all interactions with youth participants. This will provide greater protection to the youth and the Activity Workers.

Definitions

Youth – Any person under the age of 19, excluding full- and part-time UNK students

Activity Worker – Includes directors, coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, student assistants, staff, faculty, officials, referees or contracted teachers or any other adult or student acting as a supervisor/mentor/worker in a paid, unpaid or volunteer status.

Activity Director – a person who plans, directs and supervises all youth activity programs and staff

Activity Support Staff – any person who provides support services such as food service, custodial, maintenance, etc. for the activity.

Activity Worker Judgment

Activity Workers are role models to the activity participants and should act accordingly. Ask yourself the following questions regarding your decisions and the situations you may find yourself in as an Activity Worker. Contact the Activity Director if you have questions or concerns.

1. What are the physical risks involved in this activity/decision?

2. Are there any foreseeable risks? What dangers can be avoided?

3. Who is this activity/decision for, the youths or me?

4. How will youths benefit from this activity and how is it related to the purpose of the activity?

5. What would I do if the youths or their parents were watching?

6. What would I do if the Activity Director was watching?

7. Could my action/decision cost me my job?
4. All physical contact should be appropriate (i.e. high fives, bones). Activity Workers should not engage in, initiate, or encourage inappropriate contact, such as chest bumps, kisses, hugs, butt slaps or sitting on laps.

5. Sexual touching or related activity is prohibited.

6. Physical restraint is prohibited, except to protect youth or other youths.

7. Touching of youth is prohibited, except when it is in the open with others present.

8. Any touching of youth should be restricted to areas not covered by a typical bathing suit.

9. Always be in view of others (i.e. when meeting in an office) leave the door open and have another Activity Worker present in the room or close proximity. If privacy is required, inform another Activity Worker that the door will be closed for a private conversation and make sure the other Activity Worker will remain nearby in the area. If no other Activity Worker is present in the building, the meeting should be rescheduled or moved to a more public location.

10. When in bathrooms or locker rooms, Activity Workers must be the same gender as the youth. Activity Workers showering or bathing with youths is strictly prohibited under all circumstances. Activity Workers will not be in the shower or bath areas with youth except during extreme medical emergencies.

11. Whenever possible, youths should not be transported in an Activity Workers’ personal vehicle.

12. All youths must have adult supervision until released to a parent or guardian, unless specific written parental permission is received.

13. Do not share personal or intimate information with youth.

14. Do not give personal gifts to youths.

**Overnight Activities/Programs**

In addition to the above, the following are further precautions related to overnight youths who stay in campus/other housing.

1. A ratio of at least one adult supervisor to every 15 youths is required, with a minimum of two adult supervisors regardless of size of activity. At least one adult supervisor of the same sex as the youths is required.

2. Youth are not allowed alone in Activity Worker(s)’ private rooms.

3. Do not enter a bathroom or shower area to assist a youth without another Activity Worker present.

4. Never leave youths unsupervised in the residence halls at night.