

**BEHAVIOR/MEDICATION MANAGEMENT PLAN
CAMP HIAWATHA
HIAWATHALAND COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this plan is to help the Camp Hiawatha leadership team and the volunteer scout leaders identify, evaluate, and support campers who are having serious behavior problems. These behaviors often interfere with success in the camp program, health and safety, or the health and safety of other people in camp. It is our expectation that before arriving at camp, troop leadership will have discussed this plan with the parents of those who will be attending camp and especially parents of Scouts who have exhibited difficult behavior in previous outings or meetings. We are also concerned with meeting the medication needs of each camper by ensuring that they are given their medications as prescribed by their medical professional in a timely manner while at camp.

At Camp Hiawatha we expect Scouts to live up to the ideals of Scouting as stated in the Scout Oath and Law. We understand that part of being at camp may involve some minor issues which are best handled by the Unit Leadership. This plan is not intended to be a punitive plan where campers can be restricted or excluded from activities. Our goal for all Scouts is full participation in the summer camp program while maintaining an enjoyable and safe environment. Full consideration has been given to the policies of the Boy Scouts of America and the Michigan Family Independence Agency in developing this plan.

MEDICATION MANAGEMENT:

The Hiawathaland Council desires to fulfill the medical needs of each Scout as prescribed by their physician. For this reason, the Personal Health and Medical Record form provides a place to note the medical needs of each Scout. Examples of medical needs include diet, allergies, medications and mobility, as well as any other special medical conditions. It is the responsibility of the parent and physician to complete the medical form in its entirety. Prior to submitting health forms to the camp medical staff, the Scoutmaster should review each form to ensure that all necessary information is included. It may be desirable for Scoutmasters to keep a photocopy for their records. Please remember that these must be kept confidential. The camp health staff will monitor the stated requirements as well as the general health of all campers.

In the past we have had Scouts who take medication for behavior management but have not taken it at camp. In our experience, Scouts who are not taking their medication as prescribed at home often present behavior problems and are considerably less successful at camp. We believe that medications prescribed to help manage inattention, distractibility, excessive activity, excessive emotionality, deliberate uncooperativeness and impulsiveness are necessary at camp and will contribute to a successful experience here as well as at home.

It is important that parents realize that all medications, prescription as well as non-prescription, are collected, securely stored, and administered by the medical staff at the health lodge. This is mandated by state and BSA policies. Scouts visit the health lodge for a variety of reasons, therefore a Scout will not stand out in a negative manner by going there. The reasons for any visit to the health lodge are kept confidential.

A SCOUTS REFUSAL TO TAKE PRESCRIBED MEDICATION WILL RESULT IN A PHONE CALL TO THE PARENTS AND THE POSSIBLE ACTION OF HIM/HER BEING ASKED TO LEAVE CAMP.

Although there may be different opinions regarding the use of medications to help with various behaviors, we feel that this is primarily an issue to be decided between the camper, the parents and the physician. For that reason, the medical staff at Camp Hiawatha will strive to ensure that medications brought to camp are taken as prescribed by the physician. Any unwillingness of the volunteer leadership to abide by these wishes and/or instructions by not giving the medication at camp may result in a dangerous situation for the camper, as well as exposing himself or herself to possible liability.

It is not the responsibility of the camp medical staff or the troop leadership to alter the prescriptions of a Scout that comes to camp. If a concern arises, no action will be taken without first consulting the physician and the parent or guardian.

MANAGING SERIOUS AND ONGOING BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS:

Troop Leadership Intervention:

It will be the unit leadership's responsibility to handle typical problems at camp. In this section, suggestions will be given to help handle difficult behaviors that may occur. These suggestions are intended to help adult leaders change negative and inappropriate Scout behavior as a way of building character both at camp and at home. Your unit committee should also have some type of plan in place that gives general guidelines for all meetings and outings. It is important that this be in place to help you deal with the more difficult problems. Cooling off periods can only be helpful if something constructive is happening during that time.

REMEMBER: OUR GOAL IS TO HELP THE SCOUT TO CHANGE BEHAVIOR AND MAKE GOOD, POSITIVE CHOICES, NOT TO PUNISH HIM/HER. THERE IS A TENDANCY TO IGNORE PROBLEMS UNTIL TOO LATE THEN GET ANGRY WITH THE SCOUT INVOLVED. THIS APPROACH DOESN'T USUALLY SOLVE THE PROBLEM, BUT ONLY CAUSES FURTHER PROBLEMS WITH THAT SCOUT.

There are four basic principles to help with this process:

1. Enhance the Scouts self-concept
2. **LISTEN** effectively and respond with empathy to the Scout.
3. Involve the Scout in helping to solve the problem rather than punishing.

4. Provide for consequences if the problem continues.

Recall that while youth make frequent errors in judgement and behavior, there are often underlying personal or medical issues that affect behavior. It may be that when a Scout is angry and directs it toward someone else, it is a reaction to something else in his or her life. Try to understand what these underlying issues might be. The caution here is not to take adolescent issues personally and as a result become angry yourself. If you feel this happening, it is time to turn the situation over to another adult scout leader. One of the strongest ways to shape positive behaviors is for you to show, not just tell, Scouts how to behave in difficult situations.

***TALK PRIVATELY** (two deep leadership and/or in full view of others) with the Scout at the first occurrence of a problem; this step is very important in laying the groundwork for dealing with further difficult behaviors.

*Gently and with caring, ask the Scout to describe the situation as he/she sees it. **CAREFULLY POINT OUT THE INAPPROPRIATENESS OF THE BEHAVIOR AND WHAT IS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE OR EXPECTED BEHAVIOR IN THAT SITUATION. ASK WHAT HE OR SHE COULD HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY. ALSO, POINT OUT CONSEQUENCES, BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE.**

***DEVELOP A LIST OF ALTERNATIVES AND WRITE DOWN THOSE ON WHICH YOU BOTH AGREE.** You must provide clear alternative behaviors rather than just point out the inappropriate behavior. Coaching is not a lecture; it is a give and take discussion with the major goals being to build character and to learn appropriate decision making.

*If further discussion is necessary, schedule a meeting within a short period of time. At camp, this could be as soon as that afternoon or the next day. Let the Scout know that you are available to discuss any concerns or problems with him/her at any time.

***OFFER ENCOURAGEMENT AND CONCERN** to the Scout at the end of the meeting and at several times during the day.

*It is not necessary to talk to the Camp Director at this time unless the situation warrants immediate action based on health or safety issues. However, you may consult the Camp Director if you are uncomfortable or need guidance with handling problems.

Part of the value of this process is that you are helping the Scout solve a problem that he or she agrees needs to be solved. This is a powerful character building opportunity. **WHEN CHANGES OCCUR, REMEMBER THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO POINT OUT TO THE SCOUT THAT THESE WERE PERSONAL CHOICES AND HE OR SHE DID THE CHANGING, WHICH WE RECOGNIZE WAS NOT EASY. IT IS EASY FOR US TO TAKE CREDIT HERE, BUT DOING SO ROBS THE SCOUT OF OWNERSHIP AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.**

If the difficult behavior continues, and seems to the unit leadership to interfere in a major way with the Scouts success in the program, his/her health and safety or the health and safety of other campers, the volunteer leadership or the camp staff, it should be brought to the attention of the Camp Director immediately. Background, medical and other pertinent information will be discussed at that time.

WHATEVER THE REASON FOR THE ONGOING BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS, IF THE SCOUT IS NOT ABLE TO SHOW SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN BEHAVIOR TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE CAMP DIRECTOR, OR THE BEHAVIOR IS SERIOUS ENOUGH TO WARRANT IMMEDIATE ACTION AS DETERMINED BY THE CAMP DIRECTOR, THE PARENTS WILL BE ASKED TO PICK HIM/HER UP AT CAMP IMMEDIATELY. IF THEY ARE UNABLE TO DO SO OR IF HE/SHE IS SO OUT OF CONTROL THAT THERE IS A DANGER TO HIM/HERSELF OR OTHERS, THE CAMP DIRECTOR WILL MAKE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIM/HER TO BE REMOVED FROM CAMP AT THE EXPENSE OF THE SCOUT'S PARENTS OR GUARDIAN.