

City of Dripping Springs

Standards of Care Amendment

ORDINANCE No. 2026-##

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS AMENDING THE STANDARDS OF CARE; AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, quality youth programs provide benefits to the children and youth served such as improved academic achievement, self-esteem, social skills, and career development; and

WHEREAS, it is important for organized youth programs to adhere to recognized quality program standards which include well-trained, professional staff for the safety of all children and youth served; and

WHEREAS, adequate funding is necessary to provide quality youth mentoring programs and to increase the number of youth served; and

WHEREAS, providing standards of care benefits the City, its residents, and the youth involved in City youth activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of Dripping Springs:

1. FINDINGS OF FACT

The foregoing recitals are incorporated into this Ordinance by reference as findings of fact as if expressly set forth herein.

2. ENACTMENT

Code of Ordinances, City of Dripping springs, Texas, is hereby amended to read in accordance with Attachment "A", which is attached hereto and incorporated into this Ordinance for all intents and purposes. Language that is struck through in red is repealed; language that is double underlined in blue is added.

3. REPEALER

All ordinances, or parts thereof, that are in conflict or inconsistent with any provision of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, and the provisions of this Ordinance shall be and remain controlling as to the matters regulated herein.

4. SEVERABILITY

Should any of the clauses, sentences, paragraphs, sections, or parts of this Ordinance be deemed invalid, unconstitutional, or unenforceable by a court of law or administrative agency with jurisdiction over the matter, such action shall not be construed to affect any other valid portion of this Ordinance.

5. CODIFICATION

The City Secretary is hereby directed to record and publish the attached rules, regulations, and policies in the City’s Code of Ordinances as authorized by Section 52.001 of the Texas Local Government Code.

6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage and publication as provided for by law.

7. PROPER NOTICE & MEETING

It is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this Ordinance was passed was open to the public, and that public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551. Notice was also provided as required by Chapter 52 of the Texas Local Government Code.

PASSED & APPROVED this, the ___ day of _____, _____, by a vote of ___ (ayes) to ___ (nays) to ___ (abstentions) of the City Council of Dripping Springs, Texas.

CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS:

by: _____
Bill Foulds, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Diana Boone, City Secretary

Chapter 16: PUBLIC WAYS AND PLACES

Article 16.02 – PARKS AND RECREATION

DIVISION 3. YOUTH PROGRAMS' STANDARDS OF CARE

Sec. 16.02.101. Title.

This division shall be cited as the "standards of care ordinance."

Sec. 16.02.102. Purpose.

The following standards of care are intended to be minimum standards by which the city will operate the city's youth programs. These are the basic child-care regulations for programs operated by the city. The programs operated by the city are recreational in nature and are not day care programs. This will allow the city to qualify as being exempt from the requirement of the Texas Human Resources Code. The city is not licensed by the state to offer day care programs.

Sec. 16.02.103. Applicability.

These standards apply to the Coyote Kids Nature Day Camp program and other youth programs offered by the city and directly supervised by camp counselors.

Sec. 16.02.104. Definitions.

Words and phrases used in this division shall have the meanings set forth in this section. Words and phrases that are not defined below, but are defined elsewhere in this code, shall be given the meanings set forth in those other ordinances. Words and phrases not defined in this code shall be given their common, ordinary meaning unless the context clearly requires otherwise. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense shall include the future tense; words in the plural number shall include the singular number (and vice versa); and words in the masculine gender shall include the feminine gender (and vice versa). The word "shall" is always mandatory, while the word "may" is merely directory. Headings and captions are for reference purposes only.

Camp counselor: The city staff that has been hired or volunteered to work for the city and have been assigned responsibility for managing, administering, or implementing some or all portions of the city's youth programs. This definition also includes camp director.

Camp director: The city staff that has been hired or volunteered to work for the city and have been assigned responsibility for managing, administering, or implementing some or all portions of the city's youth programs.

City: The City of Dripping Springs, an incorporated municipality located in Hays County, Texas, and includes any official, agent or employee acting on behalf of the city.

City park or park: The city parks identified below and any land now or hereafter dedicated by the city as a municipal park.

Commission: The city's parks and recreation commission (aka, "parks and rec") or any successor entity.

Department: City of Dripping Springs Parks & Community Services Department.

Parent(s): One or both parents(s) or guardian(s) who have legal custody and authority to enroll their child(ren) in the city youth program.

Park: Drippings Springs Ranch Park, the site at which any city youth program may be hosted.

Participant: A youth whose parent(s) or guardian(s) have completed all required registration procedures and determined to be eligible for a city youth program.

Program manual: Notebook of policies, procedures, required forms, and organizational and programming information relevant to the city's youth programs.

Programs site: Area or facilities where the city youth programs are held.

Youth program(s): The city's youth programs consisting of the summer day camp program and other youth programs offered by the city and directly supervised by camp counselor staff.

Sec. 16.02.105. General information/administration.

- (a) Organization. The governing body of the city's youth programs is the city council.
- (b) Implementation. Implementation of the youth programs standards of care is the responsibility of the DSRP Manager or designee.
- (c) Application. Programs to which these standards of care will apply are: Coyote Kids Nature Day Camp and other youth programs.
- (d) Access to standards.
 - (1) Each site will have available for public and camp counselors review a current copy of the standards of care.
 - (2) Parents will be provided a copy of the current standards of care upon request.
 - (3) Standards of care will be accessible on the city's website.
- (e) Program objectives for youth programs.
 - (1) To offer a program of varied recreational activities appropriate for children, such as but not limited to those programs that are related to nature, arts and crafts, sports and games, education, drama, special events, and other such activities designed for elementary age children.
 - (2) To provide an encouraging atmosphere emphasizing positive development of physical skills, emotional growth and self-confidence.
 - (3) To provide a pleasant, memorable, educational and fun recreational experience in a positive environment.
 - (4) To provide a safe environment; always promoting good health and welfare for all.
 - (5) To educate, instill self-confidence, teach teamwork skills and inspire kids to use their leisure time wisely through outdoor education and recreation, in an effort to meet emotional, physical and social needs.
- (f) Exemption status. Once an exempt status is established, the licensing division will not monitor the recreational program. The licensing division will be responsible for investigating

complaints of unlicensed child care and for referring other complaints to the municipal authorities or, in the case of abuse/neglect allegation, to the local law enforcement authorities.

- (g) Standards of care review. Standards will be reviewed annually and approved by the city council after a public hearing is held to pass an ordinance regarding section 42.041(b)(14) of the Human Resources Code.
- (h) Child care licensing. Child care licensing will not regulate these programs nor be involved in any complaint investigation related to the program.
 - (i) Complaints. Any parent, visitor, or camp counselor may register a complaint by contacting the DSRP program ~~coordinator~~ manager Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sec. 16.02.106. Staffing.

- (a) Requirements.
 - (1) Each camp counselor must be at least 15 years old.
 - (2) All camp counselors should possess or complete prior to the beginning of camp, the following certifications from a nationally recognized organization in the following areas:
 - (A) Community CPR or the equivalent.
 - (B) First aid.
 - (3) Each camp counselor must complete the mandatory training program for the day camp.
 - (4) Each camp counselor must exhibit competency, good judgment, and self-control throughout the duration of camp.
 - (5) Each camp counselor should relate to the children with courtesy, respect, acceptance, and patience.
 - (6) Camp counselors shall not abuse or neglect children.
 - (7) Each camp counselor will be evaluated at least once during the summer prior to the completion of camp. Evaluations will be reviewed with the camp counselors to discuss any area of improvement or suggestions.
- (b) Criminal background checks will be conducted on prospective camp counselors over the age of 18. Criminal background checks may be conducted on prospective camp counselors between the ages of 15 and 18 years old. An applicant may be disqualified if they have a criminal conviction.
- (c) A prospective camp counselor is subject to a drug test prior to hiring if requested by the Camp Director in consultation with the City Attorney.
- (d) The state-required ratio for number of children (ages five to 13) may not exceed 12:1 children to camp counsellor.
- (e) Participants with special needs requiring personal assistance, i.e., feeding, changing of clothes, using the restroom, must provide an attendant for the duration of the program. Camp

counselors will not provide personal assistance. The attendant will be admitted to the program free of charge.

- (f) Participants with special needs requiring other accommodations should reach out to the camp director for coordination of accommodation. The city will facilitate reasonable accommodations when able and pursuant to state and federal law.

Sec. 16.02.107. Facility standards.

(a) Safety measures.

- (1) First-aid kits and infection control kits should be available at the site at which the participants are engaged in program activities.
- (2) First-aid guidelines should be on file, and available at the site, and include:
 - (A) CPR/rescue breathing sequence guidelines.
 - (B) First-aid review.
 - (C) Medical emergency procedures.
- (3) In a situation where evacuation is necessary, the first priority of each camp counselor is to make sure all participants are in a safe location.
- (4) A disaster and evacuation procedure should be posted at the facility.
- (5) If the site is a building, the site should be provided with clearly marked exits for use in emergency.

(b) Inspections.

- (1) The facility should generally be kept reasonably free of insects, rodent and stray animals.
- (2) Program employees will inspect sites daily for any sanitation or safety concerns. Those concerns should be passed on to the supervisor immediately.

(c) Health and sanitation.

- (1) The facility must have a sufficient number of restrooms, which are maintained in good repair, equipped for independent use by children, and designed to permit camp counselor supervision as needed.
- (2) The site must have an adequate supply of water and it will be readily available to all participants in a safe and sanitary manner.

Sec. 16.02.108. Service standards.

This information will be provided to each camp counselor as a part of the day camp staff manual.

(1) Appearance and behavior.

- (A) Camp counselors will wear name badges that are clearly visible.
- (B) Appropriate shirts, shorts, and tennis shoes are to be worn at all times. No tube tops allowed, shorts should be at a respectable length, no cutoffs.
- (C) No clothing should bear any inappropriate logos, phrases, or pictures.

- (D) Any camp counselor who does not adhere to the dress code, will be sent home for the day without pay.
 - (E) Cell phone use is allowed only when the camp counselor is on an approved break, when there are emergency circumstances, or when approved by the camp director.
 - (F) Camp counselors will wear provided camp t-shirts on field trip days.
- (2) Communication with parents.
- (A) Camp counselors will keep parents informed of activities and schedules. A general schedule will be sent to parents/guardians via email prior to the session start.
 - (B) Detailed daily schedule will be available at camp drop-off.
 - (C) Camp participants and parents will be treated with respect at all times.
 - (D) Camp counselors will note details of significant behavior of participants and update parents as needed when the participant is picked up.
- (3) Additional camp counselor responsibilities.
- (A) Camp counselors will monitor the sign in/out log at all times.
 - (B) Camp counselors will spend their time actively involved with participants and/or parents.
 - (C) Camp counselors will make an attempt to answer any complaints at the site and resolve all problems in a timely fashion. Situations that cannot be resolved on site by staff will be passed to a supervisor immediately and be investigated within 24 hours.
 - (D) Camp counselors will clean the program area after each activity.

Sec. 16.02.109. Operational issues.

- (a) Emergency phone numbers are kept with the day camp director at all times. These numbers will include the nearest fire, police, and ambulance services.
- (b) A day camp program manual is given to every day camp employee. An additional manual will be located at each site where all camp counselors can have access to the manual. The manual will contain the following information:
 - (1) Discipline issues.
 - (2) City rules and regulations.
 - (3) Forms that must be filled out.
 - (4) Service standards.
 - (5) Game/activity leadership.
 - (6) Ways to interact with children.
- (c) Sign-in/out sheets will be used every day. Only adults listed on sign-in/out release will be allowed to pick up children. An authorized person must enter the building, present appropriate identification, and sign the sheet in order for camp counselors to release the child.

- (d) Parents will be notified regarding planned field trips and provided the required release forms.
- (e) Enrollment information will be kept and maintained on each child and shall include:
 - (1) Child's name, birth date, home address, home telephone number, physician's phone number and the appropriate daytime contact information where parents can be reached during normal business hours.
 - (2) Names and telephone numbers of persons to whom the child can be released.
 - (3) Liability waiver.
 - (4) Statement of the child's special problems and/or needs, including but not limited to any known allergies.
 - (5) Designation of need for reasonable accommodations.
 - (6) Signed acknowledgement of program code of conduct by a parent or guardian.
- (f) Camp counselors shall immediately notify the parent or other person authorized by the parent when the child is injured or has been involved in any situation that placed the child at risk.
- (g) Camp counselors will follow the recommendations of the Texas Department of Health concerning the admission or readmission of any participant after a communicable disease.
- (h) Camp counselors shall notify parents or authorized persons of children in the facility when there is an outbreak of a communicable disease in the facility that is required to be reported to the county department of health. Camp counselors must notify parents of children in a group when there is an outbreak of lice or other infestation in the group.

Sec. 16.02.110. Behavior management and discipline procedures.

- (a) Program employees will implement discipline and guidance in a consistent manner based on an understanding of individual needs and development with the best interest of program participants in mind.
- (b) There will be no harsh, cruel, or corporal punishment used as a method of discipline.
- (c) Program employees may use brief, supervised separation from the group if necessary. Children will be aware of all camp rules prior to the start of any activity. Their understanding of the rules is an integral part of behavior management. When negative behavior occurs they will know there is a consequence for the chosen action.
- (d) Incident reports will be filled out on any disciplinary cases, and information is to be shared with parents when picking up the child (or sooner when extreme cases occur). Parents will be asked to sign the incident report to indicate they have been advised about specific problems and/or negative behaviors.
- (e) A sufficient number and/or severe nature of discipline reports as detailed in the program manual may result in a participant being suspended from the program without refund. Parents/guardians will be promptly notified to pick up their child. Depending on the circumstances, the child may not be allowed to return for the remainder of the session and/or season.
- (f) In instances where there is danger including physical harm or threat of physical harm to participants, camp counselors, or themselves, the offending participant(s) will be removed

from the program immediately. Parent(s) or guardian(s) will be contacted to pick up the child immediately.

Sec. 16.02.111. Illness or injury.

- (a) Parents shall be notified in cases of illness or injury.
- (b) When an incident occurs that results in an injury, an incident report shall be filled out immediately after the incident and provided to the parent or other authorized adult and filed with the camp director.
- (c) A child who is ill or injured shall be supervised until the parent or other authorized adult removes the child from the site.
- (d) In the event of suspected abuse, program employees will report suspected abuse or neglect in accordance with the Texas Family Code. In the case where a city employee is involved in an incident with a child that could be construed as child abuse, the incident must immediately be reported to the camp director, who will immediately notify the county's sheriff's department and any other agency as may be appropriate.
- (e) State law requires the staff of youth programs to report any suspected abuse or neglect of a child to the state department of family and protective services or law enforcement agency. Failure to report suspected abuse is punishable by fines up to \$1,000.00 and/or confinement up to 180 days. Confidential reports may be made by calling 1-800-252-5400.
- (f) Camp counselors will receive basic training related to child abuse prevention and how to report suspected abuse.

Sec. 16.02.112. Monitoring and distribution.

- (a) The camp director is to confirm and ensure the standards of care are being adhered.
- (b) The camp director in charge of these programs will make visual inspections of all program sites on a biweekly basis and make a report if necessary to be sent to the DSRP manager.
- (c) The department shall post and make available copies of these standards and the rules adopted pursuant to this section.
- (d) The department shall notify the parents of each prospective participant that the recreational programs are not licensed by the state. The program may not, and will not, be advertised as any type of child-care facility.
- (e) The Parks designee shall submit an annual report on the camp to the parks and community services director. The report shall include standards of care compliance issues and changes recommended for the next year.

Sec. 16.02.113. Transportation.

- (a) Before a participant may be transported to and from city-sponsored activities, a medical form and waiver, completed by the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the participant, must be filed with the program ~~coordinator~~ [manager](#).
- (b) Before a program employee can drive a 14-passenger van that is transporting participants, they must:

- (1) Be at least 18 years of age with a valid Texas driver's license;
- (2) Successfully pass a background check;
- (3) Complete an online 15-passenger van safety training and keep the certificate of completion with employee's file;
- (4) Complete one hour of supervised driving time with a supervisor;
- (5) Read the Dripping Springs Parks & Community Services Transportation Guide; and
- (6) Complete department required training.

Secs. 16.02.114—16.02.160. Reserved.