



Hammonasset Safe Church Guidelines

The New England Synod is committed to providing a safe environment for all people to worship and be in community with one another. In providing a safe environment we live out our Baptismal Calling as God's people committed to creating a place of true sanctuary for all people, especially children and youth.

Therefore, sponsors of, or personnel conducting any youth event within the physical territory of the Synod or an authorized synod youth event that takes place off site of the Synod territory shall agree to assure the following are followed to the greatest extent possible:

MONITORING PROGRAMS & INTERACTIONS WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH

- At least one Congregational Adult Advisor from each congregation at Hammonasset is required to have received Safe Church training prior to the event start date. The training video is in two parts, available here:

Part 1:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_D9nXIA6bRs&list=UURZLqAp-Vc0nSSkJqlxe81w

Part 2:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXp2_QFoWmI&list=UURZLqAp-Vc0nSSkJqlxe81w

A signed letter from the Church Pastor and/or Council President must be provided certifying that the Adult Leader has watched the video and read the Safe Church Guidelines

- All events and ministries for children and youth shall include at least two adults present at all times
- In working with youth (middle school and high school), at least one adult should have attained the age of 21, AND be at least 4 years older than the oldest youth in the group
- Ratio guidelines for adults: youth are as follows (keeping in mind the two adult rule as the default)

- 0-5 years 1:5
- 5-10 years 1:6
- 10-14 years 1:8
- 14-18 years 1:10
- All group activities shall be monitored by adults at all times
- Adults should avoid transporting only one youth in a car
- A roster of all persons involved in the event shall be provided to the Hammonasset committee including name, address, signed permissions, and medical info as needed. A copy shall be kept at the Youth Group's camp site
- No unrelated adult should be alone with one youth or child (the second adult must be within eyesight)
- No unrelated teenager should be alone with one younger child at any time (an adult must be within eyesight)
- Proper age-appropriate restraints (seat belts, child safety seats) should be used in all vehicles transporting children and youth
- Non-related adults shall not transport only one youth in a car. If unavoidable the child MUST ride in the rear seat
- Unrelated males and females should sleep in separate tents
- No unrelated youth should sleep in a tent housing an adult
- Individual congregations are responsible for their youth and adult participants throughout the event, including during transit to, from, and during the event, and during any and all event activities; including but not limited to program activities, games, beach activities, swimming, service activities, concerts, camping, sports activities, etc. Synod insurance provides additional coverage for liability only at the event, and not during transit to and from the event
- All adults who wish to work with children and youth will have their names and addresses cross-checked with their state's Sex Offenders List
- No photographs or other recordings of youth or children are to be used for web or print publication without the written consent of the parent(s). Such consent will outline the potential risks of publication of images and recordings. Any publications or recordings will not include identifying information such as last name or personal contact information

BEHAVIORAL STANDARDS FOR MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN OR YOUTH

Adults shall not:

- Provide children or youth with alcohol, illegal drugs, or pornography. The exception is communion wine when celebrating the Eucharist
- Consume alcohol (except Holy Communion) or illegal drugs or misuse legal drugs at any children's or youth event
- Be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs or the misuse of legal drugs at any children's or youth event
- Engage in illegal behavior or permit other adults or children or youth to engage in illegal behavior

- Engage in any sexual, romantic, illicit, or secretive relationship or conduct with any child or youth
- Discuss sexual activities or fantasies with children or youth
- Possess firearms or concealed weapons which are prohibited at Hammonasset. Special exceptions may be made for off-duty police officers or others required to carry firearms

RESPONDING TO CONCERNS

Anyone who knows of action suspected of conflicting with these guidelines or any matter endangering a child or youth during Hammonasset is asked to immediately report the matter to the Hammonasset designated First Contact Team.