

SAFETY & ABUSE PREVENTION SUMMARY

(Details available upon request)

At Sky Ranch, the safety, care, and well-being of children is a sacred trust. For more than 70 years, families have entrusted us with their children, and we take that responsibility seriously – every day, at every level of our ministry.

Our safety practices are intentional, layered, and continually evaluated. They are shaped by decades of experience, nationally recognized best practices, independent accountability, and a posture of humility that recognizes the need for ongoing improvement. We do not assume safety – we actively build it.

TRAINING & PREVENTION

PROFESSIONAL ABUSE PREVENTION TRAINING

Sky Ranch partners with MinistrySafe, a national leader in abuse prevention, to train and equip all staff – seasonal and year-round – to recognize warning signs, reduce risk, and respond appropriately to concerns. This training is completed annually and reinforced throughout the summer.

MinistrySafe also works with Sky Ranch to evaluate systems and facilities to minimize risk. Any suspicion or concern of abuse is taken seriously and reported immediately in accordance with the laws of Texas, Oklahoma, and Colorado. Sky Ranch is unique in that Greg Love, founder of MinistrySafe, personally facilitates training on-site each summer.

CLEAR VALUES KIDS CAN UNDERSTAND

Through The Sky Way Commitments – Honor, Respect, and Respond, campers are taught how to interact respectfully with others, recognize when something feels wrong, and speak up. Campers hear a simple, empowering message: “If you see something, say something.”

ONGOING ACCOUNTABILITY

All summer staff participate in weekly Redline Reminders, a structured accountability practice that clearly outlines behaviors that compromise camper safety and result in immediate disciplinary action or termination. These consistent reminders reinforce expectations and ensure safety standards remain top of mind.

Sky Ranch maintains a zero-tolerance policy for violations of rules designed to protect campers.

BOUNDARIES BEYOND CAMP

Staff may not communicate with minor campers after camp without explicit parent approval, even if the camper initiates contact. Communication between campers and staff of the opposite gender outside of camp is prohibited. These boundaries protect both campers and staff and ensure transparency with families.

COMPREHENSIVE STAFF TRAINING

Before campers arrive, Sky Ranch facilitates two weeks of intensive training covering camp procedures, safety protocols, camper care, and best practices. This training also serves as an evaluation period to confirm each individual is a strong fit for their role.

Key training areas include:

- Camper Care: discipline, bathroom policies, appropriate physical contact, contact rules, and safety standards
- Child Advocacy & MinistrySafe: abuse awareness, real-world scenario identification, and supporting campers facing emotional or mental health challenges

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SUPERVISION THAT PROTECTS

Sky Ranch maintains a 1:6 staff-to-camper ratio, with 3 to 5 counselors per cabin. Campers are never alone with one staff member where other campers or staff are not present. Counselors live with their cabins and hold one another accountable, creating a culture of constant supervision, safety, and trust.

CAMPER COMMUNICATION

Each cabin has a Manager Lock Box, allowing campers to privately communicate concerns or ask for help. These boxes are checked regularly and provide an additional, child-accessible layer of protection.

A HUMBLE, VIGILANT APPROACH

Sky Ranch does not operate under the assumption that risk can be eliminated entirely. Instead, we approach camper safety with humility, continual evaluation, and a commitment to best practices. While we work diligently to protect campers and staff, we also remain dependent on the Lord's wisdom, protection, and provision - and we commit to covering this ministry in prayer daily.

STAFFING & SCREENING

Sky Ranch hires more than 750 summer staff across five locations through a multi-layered recruiting and screening process designed to identify individuals with strong character, sound judgment, and a heart for service.

RECRUITING & DISCERNMENT

Our recruiting team is trained annually by the Summer Camp Director and Human Resources. Interviews are debriefed daily as a group, providing shared discernment and accountability. Former staff members also play a role by referring aligned candidates and flagging concerns when appropriate.

THOROUGH SCREENING

Every applicant completes an in-depth application, including:

- Agreement with the Sky Ranch Doctrinal Statement
- Questions regarding Christian worldview and spiritual life
- Direct questions related to criminal history, including specific crimes against children

INTERVIEWS, REFERENCES, AND BACKGROUND CHECKS

All applicants participate in a 50 - 60 minute structured interview, submit three references (all verified), complete a criminal background check, and are required to complete MinistrySafe training upon arrival. Every employee also submits an annual Voluntary Disclosure Statement.

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SAFETY & CARE SYSTEMS

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Sky Ranch maintains detailed emergency action plans for severe weather, fire, medical emergencies, intruders, missing campers, evacuation, and active threats. Staff are trained on these protocols, and campers receive age-appropriate guidance within the first 24 hours of camp.

MEDICAL CARE

Sky Ranch employs a Healthcare Director (Registered Nurse) to oversee all camp healthcare. Medical protocols are reviewed annually and regulated by local physicians. Licensed healthcare professionals are on site; AEDs are available at every property, and CPR-certified staff are present in every cabin.

FOOD SAFETY & ALLERGIES

Our licensed kitchens and staff meet the same regulatory standards as public restaurants. We accommodate all nine major allergens, provide special diet lines, and offer menu alternatives when needed. While not peanut-free, peanut products are limited.

EMOTIONAL CARE & HOMESICKNESS

Homesickness is common, and our staff is trained to recognize it early and respond with patience, encouragement, prayer, and care - helping campers grow in confidence, resilience, and independence.

A PROVEN CARE MODEL

Our decentralized, cabin-based model ensures consistency and accountability as campers are always with their cabin group. Each cabin is led by a team of cabin counselors, overseen by a Senior Counselor, and supported by full-time Ministry Team Professionals focused solely on camper care, safety, and spiritual growth.

EXTERNAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Sky Ranch is American Camp Association (ACA) accredited, meaning our camps are independently evaluated against nationally recognized safety and operational standards. We seek this accreditation to ensure we meet - and often exceed - these industry benchmarks.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email Policies@SkyRanch.org or call Guest Services at 800.962.2267.