



The Claggett Center's number one priority is the safety of the campers in our care, and we know it's the first priority of their families! We've created this document for families to learn some of the key policies and procedures we have in place to ensure that your children and loved ones are in the best hands at camp. If you have questions about any camp safety practices or policies, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Staff Training

Physical Safety: Senior Counselors are present during every camp activity and transition, and receive specialized training on all high-risk activities such as swimming, canoe/kayak, rustic camping, and ropes course. Only trained senior counselors lead these activities. All Senior Counselors and permanent staff at Claggett hold CPR/First Aid training.



Healthcare Staff

Campers receive any medical care during the week from our Camp Nurse, who is a medical professional with an LPN, RN, or higher level of medical certification. Our medical policies are revised and approved by our supervising doctor each year, who also provides support to our medical team. This person is on site 24/7 during camp, and is also responsible for dispensing any medications a camper brings from home or uses from our OTC supply. In addition, this year we have added a Mental Health consultant to our team, who will be training staff and available on stand-by if a camper is in crisis.

Emotional and Spiritual Safety: All staff, including volunteers, receive training on creating a safe and supportive environment for campers through positive regard, appropriate and restorative discipline, and bullying prevention. Our team works together to create an environment that protects campers' dignity and celebrates them for who they are. Senior Counselors receive additional training in recognizing and responding to signs of mental health concerns.



Camp Family Communication

It is important to our mission and programming that campers remain technology-free during their time here, in order to engage more fully with the community. This means that any communication regarding your camper comes through the Program Director or Administrator. If you have questions or concerns throughout the week, you can always call us at 301-874-5147. We will alert you right away if there are any safety concerns regarding your camper. In the case of an emergency, we will call 911 first, and then camper families. Please see our Camp Family Handbook if you have additional questions about communication.



Facilities

Our facility as a whole is also held to high safety standards. The Maryland state Department of Health requires that every summer camp have safety procedure plans for fire evacuation, severe weather, lost camper, swimming/pool, injury or illness, and each of our adventure activities. Staff are trained on these procedures, and campers participate in a fire drill each week of camp.

Campers sleep in dorm-style housing, in groups of 8-10 campers. Counselors sleep on the same floor as their assigned campers, in adjacent or adjoining rooms in keeping with diocesan standards for child protection.. This ensures the privacy and safety of both campers and staff, while allowing campers to quickly and easily reach an adult in the night if needed. All campers have the opportunity to change privately,. All showers are in stalls with private changing stations. Campers and staff use separate changing and bathing facilities.

Abuse Prevention

Screening: All staff members (paid and volunteer) complete an interview and reference check process. Background checks are conducted through Praesidium (a private company) for all adult volunteers, and state and federal checks, including fingerprinting, are conducted for all Senior Counselors.

All staff members, including volunteers, complete Safe Church Training, which is the Episcopal church's course for child sexual/physical abuse prevention and reporting.

Claggett camps operate with a strict "Rule of Three," meaning that at all times during a session, campers must be in a group of 3 people or more, including at least one counselor. Campers will never be left on their own, and a single counselor will never be by themselves with a single camper. This protects everyone involved, and is deeply ingrained in the culture of our camp. For more information about our Abuse Prevention policy, you can contact the camp office.

