



Summer Camp Safety: 6 Key Strategies for Abuse Prevention

Summer offers youth valuable opportunities for growth, friendship, and independence through camps and enrichment programs—but it also brings unique safety risks, such as field trips, swimming, and overnight stays. With clear policies, oversight, and intentional planning, program leaders can create safe, engaging environments that protect and empower every participant.

1



Establish & Enforce Clear Safety Policies

Strong, clear policies are key to abuse prevention, setting behavior expectations and response protocols—especially for seasonal staff.

2



Implement Robust Screening & Hiring Practices

A thorough, structured screening process is your first line of defense in hiring safe, qualified staff to work with youth.

3



Prioritize Practical, Job-Ready Staff Training

Staff need training that goes beyond basics—focusing on prevention, recognizing red flags, and building a safe camp culture through real-world examples.

4



Supervise with Intention & Clarity

More campers and less structure increase risk—active, intentional supervision is key during high-risk moments like shared spaces and unstructured time.

5



Use Feedback & Incident Data to Adjust Programming

Tracking incidents and feedback in real time helps improve safety protocols during the season, even with limited data.

6



Educate Families & Youth

Clear communication with parents and guardians about safety policies, reporting, and boundaries empowers everyone to build a culture of trust and accountability.