

YOUTH CAMP LICENSING STAFF REQUIREMENTS

DIRECTOR OF CHALLENGE COURSE

& OTHER CHALLENGE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Proof of all current certifications must be presented during the annual camp inspection to representatives of the Connecticut Department of Public Health to assure that individuals in key staff positions are properly qualified.

CHALLENGE COURSES

Programs offering challenge course activities, including low ropes, high ropes, rock climbing and wall climbing are responsible for ensuring that courses are safe, have adequately trained staff and are operated in a safe manner. At the time of licensing inspections, department staff will be asking for the following documentation, equipment and practices.

- Documentation that verifies that the Challenge Course Director (person who oversees ropes course operations) is 20 years of age or older and has training directly from an authoritative source in all of the challenge activities offered at the camp. The authoritative source must have published standards, guidelines, or other instructional materials that are in accordance with current published standards and recognized operational practices of a nationally recognized organization. The Challenge Course Director is an employee of the camp and on-site at the camp during the majority of time when campers or staff are participating in low or high events.
- Documentation that verifies that each staff member leading challenge course activities is 18 years or older and has had training in accordance with current published standards and recognized operational practices of a nationally recognized organization on the course element(s) they are leading and had their skills verified and evaluated by the Challenge Course Director. The documentation shall include the name of the camp staff, the date(s) of training, training outline, date(s) skills were verified and the specific skill area(s) evaluated.
- A person, either the Challenge Course Director or other staff member, who is 18 years old or older and who received training directly from an authoritative source in all of the challenge activities offered at the camp is on-site at the challenge course whenever campers or staff are participating in low or high events. The authoritative source must have published standards, guidelines, or other instructional materials that are in accordance with current published standards and recognized operational practices of a nationally recognized organization.
- Documentation of an annual inspection of course elements, or more frequent inspection if the course has been subject to any significant environmental impact, by a professional vendor or other qualified personnel not directly affiliated with the camp who follow the recommendations of authoritative sources, adhere to peer-accepted practices in construction and inspection and have experience in the construction and evaluation of the types of challenge courses being offered at camp. The inspection should be for integrity of all hardware, material, equipment and any other items related to safe operation. An acceptable inspecting agency or individual must maintain worker's compensation insurance, general liability insurance to cover the full inspection conducted, completed operations

and/or product liability insurance, be affiliated with other professional organizations and maintain a record of performing the service being provided to the camp.

- Written and implemented policies and procedures that include, but are not limited to, equipment maintenance and inspection, communicating concerns to supervisory/managerial staff, supervision of activities, staff/camper ratios, protective equipment, eligibility requirements for participation and restriction of access to the course and equipment by unauthorized and unsupervised persons.
- A written emergency operating plan including, but not limited to, means of communication and site specific rescue procedures.
- Rescue equipment available on site at the challenge course that is appropriate to the level of training completed by challenge course staff, type of course elements at camp and consistent with the camp's documented operating policies and procedures.
- Safety checks of all equipment and elements before and after each use.