

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES & INCLUSION POLICY

Section 5: Activity Selection, Universal Access & Age Eligibility Framework (Standard 32.1)

Accreditation Compliance: American Camp Association (ACA) 32.1

Document Code: SOP-PROG-32.1

Core Operating Framework: Universal Design & Inclusive Recreation

Review Cycle: Mandatory Annual Pre-Camp Evaluation

PART I: POLICY STATEMENT & INCLUSION PHILOSOPHY (32.1.1)

1.1 Universal Access Mandate

This camp facility operates under a baseline mandate of **Universal Program Access**. Every camper has an inherent right to full participation within general camp program formats. No participant may be systematically, structurally, or socially excluded from an active camp selection due to physical, adaptive, cognitive, or socio-economic differences.

1.2 Program Selection Metrics & Goals

All core activities designed or integrated into the camp schedule must align with the following programmatic goals:

- **Skill Progression:** Activities must offer scalable difficulty tiers, enabling campers to achieve individual milestones and track personal physical or creative competency over time.
- **Social Cohort Integration:** Activity mechanics must discourage individual fragmentation, instead fostering cooperative team play and cabin unity.
- **Self-Esteem Cultivation:** Programming must integrate a "Challenge by Choice" environment, validating individual courage, physical attempt, and effort above strict competitive metrics.

PART II: PROGRAM-SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (32.1.2)

To preserve absolute physical safety, group focus, and developmental alignment during high-risk specialty programming and open-water off-campus tracking, the camp maintains specific, documented age-eligibility baselines. These structural requirements represent non-negotiable safety rules based on mechanical equipment sizing and open-water environmental risks.

Specialty Program Tier	Mandatory Age	Operational & Safety Rationale
"Salty Anglers" Fishing Camp	7 Years Or Older	Requires developed fine-motor control for hook manipulation, casting mechanics, line management, and precise adherence to multi-step sharp-tool safety protocols on docks and shoreline environments.
"Ocean Quest" Off-Campus Snorkeling	9 Years Or Older	Mandates advanced respiratory control, physical stamina to manage dynamic open-water ocean currents, proper physiological sealing of standard snorkeling mask kits, and the emotional maturity to execute emergency open-water signals away from base camp boundaries.

PART III: ADAPTIVE PROGRAM DESIGN FRAMEWORK (32.1.3)

Outside of the explicit age-eligibility boundaries mandated in Part II, all general camp operations must adapt rules, gear, and environments to ensure complete peer integration across three foundational pillars:

3.1 Physical Space Modifications

- **Beach & Sand Navigation:** For on-campus oceanfront programming, the camp will lay out high-durability beach matting configurations to guarantee mobile access routes for campers using assistive mobility units directly to the waterline.
- **Thermal Depots:** Every stationary activity field must contain a fully covered pop-up canopy station supplied with cold water reserves to accommodate campers with temperature sensitivities or high hydration needs.

3.2 Equipment and Gear Adjustments

- **Sizing Diversity:** The camp maintains specialized safety equipment (including USCG-approved PFDs, helmets, and protective gear) across a full sizing matrix to guarantee an ergonomic fit for all body types.
- **Adaptive Tools:** Activity spaces must be pre-stocked with stabilizing aids, modified sporting grips, high-visibility boundaries, and sensory-friendly active play tools.

3.3 Instruction Style Modifications

- **Multi-Modal Instruction:** Staff must deliver project or athletic directions using a synchronized combination of verbal directives, physical modeling, and visual cue layouts.
- **Peer Cohesion Networks:** Team activities must be configured using inclusive buddy systems, natively embedding peer support paths into daily collaborative play.

PART IV: STAFF COACHING & REAL-TIME ACCOUNTABILITY

4.1 Pre-Camp Training

All frontline counselors and activity specialists must complete a mandatory multi-hour training module during orientation week titled *"Universal Design in Group Recreation."* This course trains staff to modify traditional boundaries and rules dynamically on the field to amplify participation without undermining safety parameters.

4.2 The A.C.T. Optimization Sequence

If an activity leader observes that a participant is disengaged, experiencing frustration, or facing an entry barrier, the leader must instantly trigger the following optimization protocol:

A - ASSESS **Analyze the Systemic Barrier**

Determine if the impediment is environmental (e.g., thermal, ground texture), mechanical (e.g., equipment weight, tool sizing), or instructional (e.g., information processing pace).

C - CUSTOMIZE **Modify Rules or Equipment In Situ**

Implement an instant adjustment from the adaptive matrix, such as bringing in a high-buoyancy swim aid, altering field boundary lines, or substituting lighter recreational tools.

T - TRACK **Verify Dignity & Full Inclusion**

Observe the integration closely. Ensure the modification allows active group participation, avoids spotlighting the camper's difference, and reinforces standard group dignity.

ACA Visitor Audit Checklist (Standard 32.1)

This policy serves as your formal written framework proving camp compliance with universal access and activity selection metrics. Place a printed copy inside your core programming directory. During your on-site evaluation, the ACA visitor team will audit your calendar, verify that the 7-year-old and 9-year-old age minimums are strictly enforced on parent rosters, and observe live sessions to confirm that comprehensive camper integration is active on the ground.