

## SouthWest Baptist Youth Camp Association Church Participation Agreement

1. **One representative from each church**, preferably someone with direct experience at camp, **must be in attendance for the entirety of both Planning Meetings and Camp.** If an exception arises, written explanation must be provided to the Camp Director(s) prior to the meeting/camp. Youth Ministers/Senior Pastors strongly urged to participate in both meetings. Only upon an emergency should a youth minister miss camp or a portion of camp. Senior Pastors highly desired participants at youth camp.

Annual Planning Meetings usually takes place on the last Thursday and Friday of September (Fall) and on the first Thursday and Friday of February (Spring). Modifications to this schedule, as well as confirmation of a host church, typically emerge during the final Minister's Meeting at camp in June and at the Fall Planning Meeting.

2. **Each church provides Sponsors** for adult leadership at camp according to the following designated ratios:

1 female sponsor per 1 to 8 girls  
1 male sponsor per 1 to 8 boys  
1 C-group leader per 1 to 15 campers  
1 C-group assistant per 1 to 15 campers

**Note:** any fraction of these numbers requires additional sponsors from your church

Sponsors must be at **least 20 years old and 2 years out of high school.**  
A graduated senior may serve as Middle School Co-C-Group Leader along with a Sponsor.

A Sponsor must be a member or regular attendee of the participating church for at least six months prior to camp.

Each church attending SWBYC activities must conduct an official criminal background check on each adult sponsor. This includes all staff, sponsors, and any adults who may visit the SWBYC activity. A letter stating that a criminal background check has been conducted on all adult sponsors must be sent to the Camp Director two weeks prior to Camp. Any official background check that has been conducted within three years is acceptable.

Sponsors agree to utilize **Camper Community Expectations** in handling violations of Community Standards whether occurring as isolated incidents within an individual church group or within the camping community as a whole.

3. **Bible Study Facilitators will study and utilize the curriculum materials written for camp** to ensure a common experience for all campers and enrich the collective church group time. C-Group Leaders may supplement their curriculum and introduce alternate plans.
4. **Each church accepts at least one task** from the *Job Assignments* list for camp.
5. **Meet All Churches deadlines** outlined on the SWBYCA Camp Deadline Schedule.
6. **Each church pays \$250.00 in Annual Camp Dues** no later than Fall Planning.
7. **Campers are youth who completed 6<sup>th</sup> Grade through current graduates of 12<sup>th</sup> Grade.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
youth minister

\_\_\_\_\_  
pastor

\_\_\_\_\_  
youth committee representative

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### I. Joining the SWBYCA: Churches seeking to participate

A. When space permits, churches may seek membership through the following steps:  
Step 1 -- Make contact with a Co-Director for the upcoming year.

Step 2 -- Send a formal letter to that Co-Director prior to the next Camp Planning Meeting. All application letters should include:

- a. A request to join the SWBYCA
- b. A description of your church and its ministry
- c. A statement of why you wish to join SWBYCA
- d. An understanding of camp policies

Step 3 -- Return a signed copy of the *Church Participation Agreement*

Step 4 -- Await recommendation from the co-directors.

Step 5 -- Await vote by the entire SWBYCA during Camp Planning. Formal letters of request and accompanying documents received prior to the Fall Planning Meeting receive full consideration for the next summer. Formal letters of request and accompanying documents received after the Fall Planning Meeting and before the Spring Planning Meeting may not allow the SWBYCA enough time to integrate a petitioning church regardless of a favorable vote. Formal letters of request and accompanying documents received anytime after the Spring Planning Meeting *will not* receive consideration for the upcoming summer camp.

Step 6 -- Receive an invitation to join the SWBYCA for the coming year. Both the SWBYCA and new church will evaluate their desire to be in covenant for the future after camp. A petitioning church receives a prompt response after Camp Planning and should anticipate immediate integration into camp leadership responsibilities upon entry into the SWBYCA.

### II. Camp Costs

	Effective Date
A. Annual Church Dues paid BEFORE camp	
1. \$250.00 flat fee per church due at Fall Planning	Spring 2007
2. \$100.00 deposit per participant due February	1st Fall 2006
3. Balance for confirmed participants due June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Fall 1998
B. Final balance paid AT REGISTRATION in June	
C. Mid-Winter Dues set at Fall Planning Meeting	

### III. Guest Churches

At the invitation of the camp, churches may send campers as guests of another church. This procedure is designed to accommodate the occasional situation where churches express interest to attend camp, but are not ready to fully commit to a camp agreement. Each invitation is considered individually and must be communicated to all participating churches. The host church takes responsibility for providing the guest church's leadership and for insuring the guest church's full participation in the policies and procedures of camp.

### IV. Mid-Winter Retreat

- A. Co-Directors plan Mid-Winter Retreat
- B. Co-Directors for the next year chosen at Mid-Winter Retreat
- C. Dues are \$25.00 per church and \$5.00 per camper/Sponsor