

## **DISCOVERY ADVENTURES ILLNESS & EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE POLICY**

Prevention of emergencies and accidents and ensuring camper safety is a top priority for Discovery Adventures. Our goals are to provide campers with a fun, educational and challenging experience on and under the water without compromising their personal safety, pushing physical limits too far or jeopardizing the safety of the group as a whole. The Discovery Adventures staff are sensitive to campers' abilities and tailor our activities to suit them. The staff of our Summer Program are CPR certified and have years of training and experience in handling medical emergencies in both remote and urban environments. During camp sessions at least one staff member with a Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician (WEMT) license will be present. Two first aid kits are carried by staff members throughout the day, and if necessary, communications to parents/guardians or additional medical care are made with a cell phone and/or marine VHF radio. Medical history forms from each camper are reviewed prior to the start of camp, at which point any specific medical needs are discussed and addressed. These forms and emergency contact numbers are carried with the group at all times.

The following lists the protocols to be used should a medical problem arise during our camp sessions. These protocols have been reviewed and authorized by a local physician.

### ***Evacuation Protocol:***

In the event of a medical emergency, the staff will stabilize the situation and - based upon the nature and severity of the injury/illness and logistical variables involved - determine whether the problem can be handled in the field or if an evacuation is necessary. In the case of the latter option at least one staff member will ensure the proper transfer of those involved in the incident to appropriate medical or parental care, unless in so doing the remainder of the group is not adequately supervised. In this situation, the entire group would cease their activities and proceed with a group evacuation. Parents or guardians will be notified by telephone by a Discovery Adventures staff member as soon as possible.

### ***Care of Mildly Ill/Injured Campers:***

Our first aid kits are equipped to handle most minor injuries or illnesses, such as cuts, abrasions, blisters, headaches, upset stomach, sea-sickness, etc. Also included in the kits are basic over-the-counter analgesics and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications, such as aspirin, ibuprofen and acetaminophen (Tylenol). If pain medications are needed, we will contact parents/guardians prior to administration. If the injury or illness is resolved or controlled and the camper and staff feel that he/she can safely continue pain-free activity, we will typically not evacuate at this time. Parents will be informed of a minor injury or illness on a non-emergency basis, usually at the end of the camp day.

***Care of Moderately Ill/Injured:***

Campers who have sustained a moderate injury (no immediate life threat but requiring further medical attention at a hospital or definitive care facility) will be evacuated in a safe and controlled manner to either our base in Lanesville or to the nearest and most practical intercept on land. Discovery Adventures staff will stabilize the injury and notify parents/guardians at this point via telephone. The speed of our evacuation will be determined by the urgency of the injury and other logistical factors involved; the camper will be closely monitored during the evacuation.

***Care of Severely Ill/Injured:***

In the event of a serious life-threatening injury or illness we will rapidly evacuate the camper to the closest point on land for an ambulance intercept. Our staff will stabilize the injury and/or administer basic life support if necessary, and parents/guardians will be notified immediately. Rapid assistance and intercept from the Coast Guard via marine radio contact may occur, dependent upon our location at the time of injury.

If there is a life-threatening situation brought about by a severe asthma attack or an anaphylactic reaction, the child will have completed the medication authorization form and their prescription will be available to them. If they need assistance, the WEMT staff are trained and authorized to administer intramuscularly. In the case of anaphylaxis, we will administer an oral antihistamine such as Benadryl as an adjunct treatment with epinephrine.

***Contacting Us:***

If you need to reach us by phone for any kind of emergency during camp hours, call the Discovery Adventures cell phone at (978)853-7290. Our office phone number is (978)283-3320.