

ELIOT INSTITUTE
CHILDREN/YOUTH & PARENT/SPONSOR ORIENTATION - FIRST NIGHT
(Revised July 2024)

MEETING FORMAT

Children's/MAGS Program: Children/MAGS Orientation is held immediately after the All Camp Orientation. All children/MAGS are strongly encouraged to attend with their parent/sponsor. Introduce Staff, then Program Director reviews the key guidelines covered below, then they split up by age cohorts. The staff for each age group lead an introduction / icebreaker activity, then give an overview of the planned program for the week, and offer time for questions.

Note: (Under 3's and Preschool Age Children have typically gone to bed, so this information may need to be shared one-on-one with their parents / guardians.)

Youth Program: Youth meeting may be held after House Meetings. All parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to attend with the youth. Go around the group for brief introductions. Then staff review guidelines and discuss covenant. End with a fun activity or preview of the week.

KEY GUIDELINES:

EXPLAIN MORNING PROGRAM

- All children and youth are expected to attend. If there are unique circumstances why a minor may not attend, parents/guardians should discuss this with staff to make sure expectations are clear.
- Children / youth are encouraged to attend ingathering. Be sure they bring to ingathering any items they will need for the morning. (e.g. jackets, sunscreen. Young children generally should not bring their own toys, as sharing can be challenging.)
- The program starts right after ingathering and goes till noon. At noon, parents of Under 3's and Preschoolers pick up their child at the program site, elementary kids are escorted to the flagpole to meet their parent, and MAGS and Youth are released from the program.
- Staff is typically responsible for the children / youth during morning program.
- Parents/sponsors are ultimately responsible for children and youth and might be called for support, if needed. For example, if a young child is distressed and cannot be soothed, staff will call parent/sponsor to come and comfort the child. Be sure staff knows the best way to contact you.
- Snacks are available during morning program. If your child/youth has food allergies, special dietary needs, or medical conditions staff should be aware of, please make sure the Children's Program Director / Youth Advisor is aware.

CAMP RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

- Parents / sponsors are responsible for their child / youth outside of morning program. Generally, children under age 7 should be with a responsible caretaker. (You can hire a babysitter - check with youth - or swap childcare.) Children and youth under age 18 who have demonstrated a need for supervision, according to the sole discretion of the Board Representative, should always be with a responsible adult 18 years of age or older.

- Waterfront: To swim, campers under 18 must have a swim check and wear a swimming bracelet. Campers under 18 wishing to use the boats must be accompanied by an adult (unless they have passed the boating test) and must wear a lifejacket.
- All Eliot participants are encouraged to stay in community. Minors need parental / sponsor permission to leave the conference site, such as to cross the street to the store.
- Briefly remind them of DUWOP policy. <https://www.eliotinstitute.org/policies>
- Remind them that the [Eliot Covenant](#), and [Guidelines for Respectful Behavior](#) discussed at the all camp orientation also apply to children and youth. For example, being inclusive and welcoming, showing kindness, compassion and respect for one another, and recognizing that we all make mistakes, so let's be generous with our forgiveness.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR YOUTH

- Curfew is 11 pm. From 11:00 pm to 1:00 am, youth should be in their sleeping quarters, or in the designated youth area. The MAGS late night and the youth overnight are an optional activity, not a mandatory part of the program. Two chaperones are needed for this time period. If youth decide to go to their rooms during this time, they are to leave in pairs or be accompanied by an adult (that's one of the reasons why we have 2 adults on shift at any one time) and they are not to come back. The escort is to ensure they reach their destination safely.
- Youth are ultimately responsible for encouraging members of the community to sign up for chaperone shift times. If chaperones are not listed by 8:00 pm on any given night, the Youth Advisor has the right to cancel the 11-1 shift or overnight.
- Cover Eliot's policy around a drug/smoke/alcohol free camp for youth. If youth are found to be in possession or engaged in these activities, youth advisors, deans and parents will be involved in coming up with appropriate consequences. For those 18 or over, smoking is in a designated area.
- Youth may not engage in sexual activity. Fully clothed hugs, kisses, and backrubs (all by consent) are appropriate.
- The Youth Staff can choose to set guidelines themselves, or to open up a discussion for a shared agreement about use of screens: video games, social media, apps such as Discord that allow them to communicate and socialize with friends who are not at camp. When are these appropriate, and when will you ask them to set them aside?
- After covering the Eliot Guidelines, facilitate a discussion about creating a covenant for camp - what other agreements would help participants feel safe, included and engaged?