



# Presbyterian Youth Victoria

## Families Serving On Camps Guidelines

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**Approved By PYV Council June 2018**

### ***Purpose***

The PYV Council desires to have families of all types (married, no children, younger or older children) to be involved in the camping ministry. Leaders with their own families bring a different life experience to the ministry than younger and/or single Leaders, and can be great role models for both youth and younger Leaders to look to, particularly in a society where broken families are common.

This document seeks to provide clarity to Camp Executives as they recruit and facilitate families serving on PYV camps; and to married PYV Leaders around options available to Camp Executives as they consider families serving together on camps.

### ***Communication***

It is PYV Council's expectation that Camp Executives and PYV Leaders bringing their families discuss as required:

- Expectations of each party for that particular camp
- Sharing of specific requirements for families, including level of flexibility in these

These discussions are best held during recruitment, and should be revisited as required leading up to camp and during camp itself. It is not expected the Camp Convener have sole responsibility for these discussions, but as the final decision maker for camp they must be across any discussions and agreements between the Camp Executive and relevant Leaders.

### ***Accommodation***

With each campsite offering different accommodation layouts, it will be up to the Camp Executive to determine how best to maximise the number of available beds. In doing this they will work under the presumption all individual families would prefer their own room. For families with children, rooms with an ensuite will be prioritised, or if unavailable then rooms as close as possible to toilet blocks. If possible, rooms for families will be out of direct traffic routes for campers to ensure sleeping children at night are not disturbed.

For families with no children, discussion between the Camp Executive and these Leaders about the possibility of dorm leading should take place during the recruitment process, so the Camp Executive is aware of the Leaders' preference. The Camp Executive will then have the option to ask these Leaders to separately dorm lead, but this should only be undertaken when final camper numbers are known, and then requested of Leaders at the earliest convenience.

### ***Timetabling***

PYV's primary priority is for campers, but Camp Executives will do what they can to facilitate a camp timetable that can accommodate Leaders with children. They will do so following discussions with these Leaders around their requirements.

## ***Kids' Program***

PYV has and will (provided resources are available) offer a Kids' Program for camps. These generally run when there are two or more families with children under camp age on camp. This program is facilitated by those with passion and giftings for children's ministry, be it older teenagers, young adults, or PYV Leaders.

The Camp Executive will be responsible for determining if a Kids' Program is suitable/required for their camp, and sourcing people to run it. Following consultation with PYV Leaders with children and those running the Program, the Camp Executive will set when this Program will operate, being any combination of sessions, studies, activities and free time. This will be communicated to Parents at the earliest convenience, with Parents to make arrangements to look after their children outside these times. If these Parents are Leaders' Chaplains or Study Leaders, the Kids' Program may need to run during free time periods to enable Leaders to catchup with their Leaders or campers. It is also expected Leaders will supervise their children during meal times.

## ***Roles & Time Commitment***

Acknowledging roles in PYV's camp Leadership have responsibilities varying in time of day and duration, the expectation will be on PYV Leaders to consider the role/s they can commit to. Some scenarios that may work for families are:

- Both Leaders serve together: Study Leaders in same group (provided both are Senior Leaders). For those with children this allows either parent to leave the group to attend to them.
- Two parents share a role: one study lead, the other activity lead. This leaves one parent with children at all times.
- One parent serve in a single role: could be an Executive role, or combined Study and Activities role. The other parent would still attend camp with children but have no formal responsibilities, but would be encouraged to assist in serving as they are able.
- Both parents serve in complimentary roles: one as a Leaders' Chaplain or Executive role, the other as a Study Leader. Will depend on age of children, and consideration of time required to pastorally care for Leaders and campers in respective roles.

We would encourage PYV Leaders to be proactive in approaching the Camp Executive with options that may work for them. Leaders do not have to wait to be personally asked to lead on a camp.

## ***Feedback***

Should you have any feedback regarding this policy, please contact the PYV Council via the Secretary at [admin@pyv.org.au](mailto:admin@pyv.org.au), or speak to a PYV Councillor (details on at [pyv.org.au](http://pyv.org.au)).