

Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church

Social Networking and Blogging Policy

FOR VOLUNTEER LEADERS AND PARTICIPANTS

The Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church views social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, MySpace), personal websites and weblogs positively and respects the right of campers and adult volunteer leaders to use them as a medium of self-expression. If a person chooses to identify himself or herself as a camper or volunteer leader at any of our camps on such internet venues, some readers of such websites or blogs may view the camper or adult volunteer as a representative or spokesperson of the Conference or event. In light of this possibility, our conference requires, as a condition of participation in the camp, that campers and adult volunteers observe the following guidelines when referring to the event, its programs or activities, its campers, and/or employees and volunteers, in a blog or on a website.

1. Participants and volunteer leaders must be respectful in all communications and blogs related to our referencing the event, its employees, other volunteers, and other participants.
2. Participants and volunteer leaders must not use obscenities, profanity, or vulgar language.
3. Participants and volunteer leaders must not use blogs or personal websites to demean the Conference or event, its employees, other volunteers, or other participants of the event.
4. Participants and volunteer leaders must not use blogs or personal websites to harass, bully, or intimidate participants, volunteers, or employees of the event. Behaviors that constitute harassment and bullying include, but are not limited to, comments that are derogatory with respect to race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, color, or disability; sexually suggestive, humiliating, or demeaning comments; and threats to stalk, haze, or physically injure another person.
5. Participants and volunteer leaders must not use blogs or personal websites to discuss engaging in conduct that is prohibited by conference policies, including, but not limited to, the use of alcohol and illegal drugs, sexual behavior, sexual harassment, and bullying.
6. Participants and volunteer leaders must not post pictures of other participants, volunteer leaders, or employees on a website without obtaining written permission.
7. The use of the United Methodist copyrighted Cross & Flame, name and/or conference logos is not allowed without written permission from the Oklahoma Annual Conference Council Camps & Retreat Ministries Director or the Safe Sanctuaries Administrator.

Any participant or adult leader found to be in violation of any portion of this Social Networking and Blogging Policy will be subject to immediate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

(This policy was adapted by Rev. Diana Northcutt and Rev. Randy McGuire from the policy developed by Anne Horton for Camp Sumatanga.)