



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

LETTER TO MEMBERS

Dear Sheridan County YMCA Members,

We are aware of the numerous allegations being posted by a former employee on various social media groups and message boards. Although this person has never personally worked during camp season at Camp Roberts, we feel it is important our community know these allegations are false and/or misleading.

At the Sheridan County YMCA, the safety and well-being of children in our care always has been and always will be a top priority. We are committed to providing a safe environment to every person who enters our doors—most importantly children who are entrusted to our care. In addition to following Wyoming laws regarding mandated reporting, we have a series of measures in place to keep kids safe. These measures are found in our Sheridan County YMCA Employee Handbook, which all YMCA and camp staff receive. Camp staff are also given our Camp Employee Manual.

Currently, the Sheridan County YMCA:

- conducts National Sex Offender Registry checks on all staff
- conducts State & County Criminal Record Checks (felony and misdemeanor)
- conducts Social Security verification
- conducts interviews and work history checks prior to hiring;
- conducts three reference checks for all applicants;
- requires all staff to complete training on preventing, recognizing and responding to abuse;
- prohibits staff from being alone with a child where they cannot be observed by others;
- restricts staff contact with children outside of YMCA programs;
- has a policy in place prohibiting electronic communication between staff and youth ;
- reports any allegations or suspicions of abuse to the proper authorities in accordance with Wyoming law;
- completes a comprehensive child abuse prevention self-assessment through Praesidium every two years;
- regularly administers a Board of Directors review of all Child Abuse Reporting and Training;
- conducts screenings of all members against the National Sex Offender Registry and terminates all memberships that return positive;
- requires all staff to complete the YMCA's training on preventing, recognizing and responding to child sexual abuse;
- exceeds local licensing requirements for supervision ratios of staff to children.

By sharing this information, I hope to dispel any concerns that may have arisen following this social media post. While we know that there is always room for improvement in our work, it is disheartening to see false statements such as this be shared when we take our commitment to child safety so seriously. You received a Camp Roberts Handbook with your reminder email but it is attached for your convenience. Please let me know if there are other policies you would like to review.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Cassiday
Executive Director
Sheridan County YMCA