



Camping with American Heritage Girls Troops



As stated in the Memorandum of Ministry Alliance, American Heritage Girls and Trail Life USA agree to support one another in a mutually beneficial relationship as they separately minister to girls and boys, respectively, as God has called them to do. There are biblical reasons for this distinctive focus for boys and girls. There are also biblical reasons for interaction, including development of a proper understanding, appreciation, and honor of the opposite sex. Our shared Christ-centered values can guide both experiences of interaction between the sexes and our normal ministry to boys and girls separately. Because of this understanding, American Heritage Girls and Trail Life USA agree to the following.

1. Each American Heritage Girls (AHG) Troop would typically camp by itself or with other AHG Troops, and each Trail Life USA (TLUSA) Troop would typically camp by itself or with other TLUSA Troops. For purposes of this policy, “camping” will include tent camping, cabin camping, hammock camping, camping under the stars, and/or any other overnight activity.
2. Interactive camping involving both AHG and TLUSA Troops will be encouraged as an occasional and purposefully coordinated experience. “Joint” camping with both AHG and TLUSA Troops must be designed and executed to advance specific Christian virtues of mutual value, such as honor, purity, respect, cooperation, service, and fellowship.
3. Joint AHG-TLUSA camping must comply with all of the following parameters:
 - a. There must be one registered AHG leader specifically designated with oversight authority and one registered TLUSA leader specifically designated with oversight authority at the camp at all times. These oversight leaders will assure the Christian purposes of the camp will be pursued, and will resolve any conflicts, questions, or other issues during the camp. If a conflict, question, or issue arises, an AHG troop leader will consult the AHG leader designed for this purpose of oversight. Similarly, TLUSA troop leaders will consult the TLUSA leader responsible for oversight. These oversight leaders may also expel any person or Troop of their respective programs for violating camp rules.
 - b. During the camp, there must be at least two actively engaged Registered Adult leaders for each AHG and TLUSA Troop, maintaining two-deep AHG as well as two-deep TLUSA leadership at all times. For the participation of younger AHG and TLUSA youth, namely AHG Tenderhearts and Pathfinders as well as TLUSA Woodland Foxes, the guidelines existing in the applicable AHG or TLUSA camping policies will continue to apply in a Joint Camping scenario.
 - c. No one (adult, boy, or girl) may camp who is not registered with AHG or TLUSA. Invited guest speakers, prospective members, trainers, staff, or media may be on site during specific times for specific purposes, as determined and monitored by the oversight leaders, but they may not camp overnight with any AHG or TLUSA units unless registered with AHG or TLUSA.

While this parameter is different from Trail Life USA's Troop Camping Policy which allows for unregistered parents to camp with their Trail Life USA member sons, Trail Life USA Troops will adhere to this more restrictive policy when engaging in a joint camping venture with an AHG Troop.

- d. Boys and girls may engage in all activities together, with direct adult supervision, except as limited below.
- e. Boys and girls must not be alone together. All boys and girls must be observable at all times and will typically function as teams within their Troops, patrols, or ad hoc camp activity units.
- f. Boys and girls must not touch each other in any inappropriate or questionable manner.
- g. Boys and girls must not haze, harass, intimidate, stalk, objectify, entice, or tease each other. Boys and girls must treat each other with respect, compassion, and honor at all times.
- h. Boys and girls must have separate and concealed bathroom and shower areas, or if only one such area is available, then specific times for separate use will be scheduled and monitored by adult leaders. No one may enter the bathroom and shower area of the opposite sex or at a time scheduled for use by the opposite sex.
- i. Boys and girls must be housed/sleep in separate campsites, with their respective gender-specific Troops. Boys and girls must never share (or be in) the same tent, cabin, tarp, or other sleeping area, and must not be able to see each other from their respective sleeping quarters. Boys and girls must not enter the sleeping area (campsite) of the opposite sex, but must remain with their own Troops during all hours. Sleeping areas must be supervised by adults. No youth will sleep alone in tents or have hammocks, sleeping bags, or any other bedding materials set up away from the rest of the Troop.
- j. Boys and girls must dress appropriately, in uniform or as otherwise determined by their Troop leaders. Boys and girls must never dress or undress within view of each other. Boys and girls must wear modest clothes, including modest swimwear. Generally swimming is discouraged as a joint activity, unless closely monitored by adult leaders, but other water activities may be engaged, such as canoeing or kayaking or water rescue skills. Boys must not be bare-chested but instead must wear t-shirts, and wear swimming trunks or shorts that are at least mid-thigh in length and surround the waist. Girls must wear modest swimming suits, with no midriff visible and minimal exposure of cleavage or buttocks. No camper or leader shall wear bikinis, thongs, Speedos, or similarly revealing swimwear.