## **FACILITY FIELD TRIPS**

Administrative Directive **AUTHORITY:** 

RESCINDS: Procedure Manual Item **3-8-014**, dated **08-18-23** 

FORMS: Field Trip and Medical Consent (F057-6050)

Field Trip Request

(F057-6851) Field Trip/Special Activity Request (YGC/YLA Form) Temporary Release (F057-6210)

**PURPOSE:** To provide a uniform method for authorizing, planning, and supervising field

trips for all Institutions.

#### I. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- Α. A field trip is a staff-supervised, temporary release of a group of youth from a facility. Field trips can be program-related or educational. When used, they should complement or coincide with the treatment goals of each individual youth and the specific facility's overall mission statement.
- B. The Division Director (DD) or Assistant Division Director (ADD) of the facility must approve all field trips.
- C. Only youth that are serving a commitment and who meet the facility's field trip criteria are eligible for field trips. The youth's assigned Treatment Team (Deputy Probation Correctional Officer [DPCO], Supervising Probation Correctional Officer [SPCO] and Deputy Probation Officer [DPO]) will bring forward any exceptions. The final decision lies with the DD or ADD. The general criteria used to determine field trip eligibility include:
  - 1. The youth has demonstrated sufficient progress within the facility program to justify the belief that they will comply with field trip rules and pose no discernible threat to the community.
  - 2. Generally speaking, only the youth who are of the appropriate behavior status or phase/level will be considered for field trip activity. Other youth may be considered only after staffing the justification for such field trip activity has occurred between the youth's facility Treatment Team (SPCO/DPCO and assigned DPO) and Administration.
- D. The maximum ratio of supervision is one **DPCO** for every **eight (8) youth**. Final staff to youth ratio will be determined based upon behavior status or phase/level of youth participating, experience of staff assigned to participate in the field trip, and the nature/location of the field trip. Volunteers in Probation (VIPs) and Department of Education (OCDE) staff may accompany Probation staff on field trips but may not be used to replace regular staff supervision. VIPs and OCDE staff should receive thorough instructions regarding procedures, responsibilities, and supervision needs prior to the field trip.

- E. The staff accompanying the youth must have a valid California driver's license. The youth must be transported in County vehicles.
- F. Field trips that are scheduled during the school day must have the approval of and be coordinated with school administration. For a school related field trip an OCDE staff must accompany Probation staff in order for the youth participating in the field trip/activity to receive adequate school credits.

### II. PROCEDURE

# A. **DPCOs** will:

- 1. Verify that a Field Trip Request Form has been completed and approved. This form will include all the pertinent details such as date and time of trip, destination, transportation requirements, money needed, and/or clothing issues. If food is required, arrangements must be made with the Chief Cook at least two weeks prior to the activity.
- 2. Ensure that the youth participating have a valid Field Trip and Medical Consent Authorization form signed by the parent or guardian. Verbal authorization alone is not permitted. This form is to be signed by the parent and witnessed by staff. If the youth is a "Placement Youth", and the court has ordered that the "DPO is authorized to sign the Medical Consent", then the assigned field DPO may sign the Field Trip Authorization form as well. The youth who are not "Placement Youth", and whose parents/guardians are unavailable to sign the Field Trip Authorization form must receive the Juvenile Court's permission via a Court order to attend such field trips. Youth 18 years of age and over must also have a Field Trip Authorization form on file. The Medical Consent form will be maintained by the Duty Officer (DO) and will not be taken on the field trip.
- 3. Photocopy the Field Trip Authorization Form. One set of these copies will be maintained by the DO, while another set of copies will accompany the group on the trip.
- 4. Ensure that a medical nurse/doctor has cleared the youth to participate in the activity. Any medications that are needed during the field trip will accompany the youth on the trip and remain in the possession of staff.
- 5. Each facility will complete the appropriate paperwork for <u>their</u> specific facility to ensure each youth can be accounted and located should the need arise.
- 6. Ensure that all youth are dressed appropriately for the activity.
- 7. Prior to the departure, all staff assigned to accompany youth on the field trip will have discussed and established their roles and duties involving proper supervision, radio/cell-phone protocol, and how the staff will respond in the event of an emergency, including an escape, medical emergency, etc.

- 8. To the degree possible, male or female staff (**SPCO**, **DPCO**, VPO, VIP or OCDE) will accompany field trip groups in a manner that adequately addresses supervision of youth during restroom breaks during these field trips. **SPCOs** may coordinate, plan, review and participate in field trips, but will not be factored into the supervision ratio.
- 9. Ensure that each youth is searched before the field trip leaves the **facility**.
- 10. Upon departure, sign each youth out in the Integrated Case Management System (ICMS) automated logbook and include the estimated time of return. Ensure that the DO has a copy of the list of youth/staff attending the trip.
- 11. Obtain a cell phone from the DO and ensure that the contact number is left with the DO at the time of departure.
- 12. Notify Station 14 (Probation Dispatch), via the County Pak-set radio on Green-1 channel that the group is departing grounds, vehicle mileage, trip destination and number of youth and staff attending. The radio will remain on Green-1 channel during the trip. Upon arrival, Station 14 must be notified. When departing the location of the activity, Station 14 is to be advised with the vehicle mileage, number of youth and staff and the destination point. Once the group has returned to the facility, Station 14 is to be notified.
- 13. During the activity, ensure that the youth remain as a group and are continually supervised at all times. In certain circumstances, if staffing ratios allow it, the group may be broken up into smaller groups as long as constant supervision can be maintained.
- 14. In the event of an escape, notify the local law enforcement and the Duty Officer. Terminate the activity, return to the facility and complete a Special Incident Report (SIR). Include information in the SIR indicating the law enforcement personnel contacted.
- 15. In the event of a medical emergency, notify the appropriate law enforcement agency and render first aid as required. Contact the Duty Officer and explain the situation. Tell the Duty Officer where the youth(s) will be transported for medical care and request the Duty Officer contact the JH Medical Unit to put the Medical Unit in contact with the receiving medical care facility.
- 16. Upon return to the facility complete a Tek84 body scan, Abbott drug test panel (add EtG testing), and breathalyzer sample for each youth.
- B. Supervising **Probation** Correctional Officer will:
  - 1. Determine which youth can participate in the field trip according to the youth's **behavior** status, Phase/Level, weekly grades, and input from the youth's Treatment Team.

- 2. Arrange/delegate transportation and staffing for the field trip. Ensure that at least one male or female staff is scheduled to assist with restroom supervision.
- 3. Coordinate educational field trips with the school if during school hours. Provide the school with a list of youth participating in field trips during the school day.
- 4. Expeditor required prior to field trip for expenses.
- 5. Ensure that the Chief Cook has been notified at least two weeks in advance of the trip when possible, so that picnic/sack lunches can be prepared.
- 6. If contacted by the assigned field trip staff regarding a medical emergency involving a youth, immediately contact the JH Medical Unit and request they contact the medical care facility the youth will be/has been transported to. Provide JH Medical Unit by **email** with copy of Medical Consent Authorization signed by parent.

## **REFERENCES:**

Procedures:	1-2-102 3-1-017	Volunteers in Probation Program Care and Use of County-Owned Facilities/ <b>Equipment</b>
	3-3-001 3-15-001	Reporting Juvenile Facility Escapes Special Incident Reports/Routing SIR and DHO Paperwork
Policies:	D-6	Transportation of Probationers and Custody Transportation
	E-8 E-9	Volunteers Use of Resources for Minors; Parental Consent and Field Trips

**Roland Lopez** 

**APPROVED BY:**