



## YOUTH CAMP

# Care for Campers

## Overview of Camper Care at Youth Camp

1. Every incident with a camper is responded to immediately with prayer and care.
  - a. Campers must be prepared for responding with prayer by having exposure to Christian Science and an understanding of what turning to God in prayer means.
  - b. Camp staff provide basic first aid for campers.
  - c. Camp does not administer any type of medication, prescription or over-the-counter, to any camper. Campers should not bring any medications with them.
2. Christian Science practitioners provide specific Christian Science treatment to campers to find healing.
  - a. Campers should know what a Christian Science practitioner is and what s/he does and be willing to work with a Christian Science practitioner at camp. Having worked with a Christian Science practitioner in the past is not required.
  - b. Read Appendix A for a scope of service of what a Christian Science practitioner does.
3. Campers who require extended care or specific Christian Science nursing care are taken to the care facility, Highview. The Christian Science nurse provides immediate care.
  - a. A phone call is made to parents to alert them to the camper need, include them in the prayerful work being done, update them on practical care being given (e.g. cleaning of wounds, rest, etc.) and discuss appropriate next steps for care.
  - b. Communication with the parents continues until the situation is resolved.
  - c. Read Appendix B for a scope of service of what a Christian Science nurse does.
4. If care beyond the Christian Science nurse is desired, the parents and Ranch Director will make necessary arrangements.
  - a. Campers may continue to be at camp and continue to seek healing, as long as no medication is required.
  - b. If a situation arises in which a parent would like to pursue an extended medical solution to a problem, the parents will work with the Ranch Director to determine appropriate steps for caring for the child outside camp.
5. In a life-threatening emergency, emergency medical care is provided (as required by the state of Colorado).

## Additional Information on Camper Care

The summer camp experience at the A/U Ranches is focused on providing campers with an environment where Christian Science is lived and practiced in every aspect of our day. It is a natural and integral part of all camp activities. The A/U Ranches are a place where young people come to experience the “atmosphere conducive to the recognition of the practicality and effectiveness of Christian Science.”

Campers who attend the A/U Ranches participate in a wide variety of activities that include a prayerful and Christian Science focus. These include, but are

not limited to, Christian Science Bible lesson study, activity inspirationals, flag raising, daily gratitude, grace at meals, testimony meetings, inspirational talks from a Christian Science practitioner, Sunday School, hymn sings and access to an on-site Christian Science practitioner and Christian Science nurse. Beyond these organized aspects of camp are the impromptu interactions and sharing of Christian Science that happen between campers and staff.

We recognize every camper is in a unique place in their learning and understanding of Christian Science and their personal relationship to God. We expect

---

campers will participate in these activities to learn more about their relationship to God and the staff are prepared to work with each camper wherever they are in their understanding. The success of each camper's experience depends on their preparation for and buy-in to what happens at camp.

### HANDLING SMALL INCIDENTS

Coming to camp is all about facing new experiences and challenges. These happen in every aspect of camp from cabin life, being away from home, learning to live with others, to new friendships, interactions with many new children and the specific activities we engage in on a daily basis.

**In every instance, the first response to any challenge or incident with a camper is going to be turning to God in prayer.** Camp staff are trained and prepared to work with campers applying Christian Science principles and to expect the situation to be resolved harmoniously. Examples of situations like this include if a child isn't feeling well, is scared about a new activity, is frustrated with another camper, is missing home or has a tumble or fall.

If additional help is required, each camp has a Christian Science practitioner, listed in the Christian Science Journal, who is available to talk with campers and to provide specific Christian Science treatment. Christian Science practitioners are available 24 hours a day and the services of the Christian Science practitioner are included as part of the camp experience. We see many healings every day through the work of the staff and the practitioners. These instances, which are resolved quickly and easily, occur on a daily basis and are what camp is all about.

**At camp, we do not administer any type of medication, over-the-counter or prescription like aspirin, painkillers, medicated creams, cough syrup, cold medicine, etc.** Campers should not bring any medications with them. We can consider an exception for campers who carry EpiPens or inhalers for emergency situations and would be allowed to self-administer, if an emergency arises. This would require a conversation with the Ranch Director prior to kids coming to camp. We address every challenge through prayer. Christian Science support

will be provided and a call to a parent will be made immediately following an incident.

### HANDLING LARGER INCIDENTS

When campers experience more significant or on-going challenges from illness or injury, the practitioner is always called first. Camp staff are trained in First Aid and provide whatever immediate physical care is needed. We have a Journal-listed Christian Science nurse on property who is available to provide practical care supporting healing through Christian Science treatment. The Christian Science nurse lives at Highview, our care facility, where we have a place to provide practical care (such as cleaning of wounds, etc.) that might be needed, as well as quiet spaces for campers to rest and work towards healing.

If a camper has a need that includes going to Highview for anything beyond a simple care and Band-Aids, the parents are called by either a camp director or the Christian Science nurse. This call is to alert the parents to what the camper is experiencing, to update them on the care that is being given, to include them in the prayerful work being done and to include them in the decision making going forward about the care for their child.

If care outside a Christian Science nurse is needed, the parents work with the Ranch Director to determine appropriate next steps. We are able to take campers to the emergency rooms for care like bones being set or wound management. According to state law, any situation that is life-threatening requires we provide traditional medical treatment through the emergency medical system.

If a situation arises in which a parent would like to pursue an extended medical solution to a problem, the parents will work with the Ranch Director to determine appropriate steps for caring for the child outside of camp.

*Last Edited June 17, 2022*

# The First Church of Christ, Scientist

---

## Appendix A: Christian Science Practitioner Scope of Services

Christian Science is a system of religion, morals, and metaphysical practice founded by Mary Baker Eddy. This Bible-based religion has been practiced for more than a century. As a prayer-based way of living, Christian Science rests solidly on the spiritual laws illustrated in the teachings and healing examples of Christ Jesus. The fundamental premise of Christian Science is that God, Spirit, is all good, and that each of us is God's loved, spiritual offspring. Anyone can turn to God in prayer for the moral, physical, and spiritual healing of life's challenges.

Christian Science practitioners advertising in *The Christian Science Journal* are experienced Christian Scientists, members of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, who make themselves publicly available to respond to requests for prayer. In service to God and their neighbour, their work consists entirely of supporting through prayer alone those who ask for their help. Practitioners work with those from any location, background, culture, or faith. They practice from their highest sense of Christianity and integrity.

*Journal*-listed Christian Science practitioners are expected to participate annually in continuing education by attending a Christian Science Association meeting. They also study, regularly, the weekly Christian Science Bible Lesson published in the *Christian Science Quarterly*. They are independent workers who have no other profession, and are paid (when compensation is permissible by law) by the individuals who engage them, not by the Church.

*Although not an exhaustive list, the following description is intended to clarify what to expect when engaging the services of a Christian Science practitioner:*

The services of a Christian Science practitioner include:

- Providing specific prayer, upon request, for the healing of any of life's challenges — physical, financial, relational, emotional, etc. This prayer is based on the Bible and is explained in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy, founder of Christian Science;
- Responding with Christian love and spiritual assurance of God's tender care, ever-presence, and omnipotence.;
- Faithfully and consistently affirming each individual's spiritual perfection;
- Making recommendations, when appropriate, for the study of the Scriptures, the writings of Mary Baker Eddy, and other Christian Science writings that support a better understanding of each person's relationship with God;
- Answering questions about God, Christ Jesus, and Christian Science, when appropriate;
- Visiting the person asking for prayer, when possible and appropriate.

The services of a Christian Science practitioner **do not** include:

- Any form of psychological treatment, including counseling or therapy;
- Utilizing any form of medical technology or treatment, including diagnosis, prognosis, drugs (medicated, herbal, vitamin-based products or remedies), or physical therapy; but he or she may document reported conditions for insurance purposes;
- Any form of physical contact or therapeutic measures, such as laying on of hands or manipulation;
- Any use of a formula for prayer; or hypnotism, witchcraft, or will-power;
- Giving advice about, or assuming responsibility for, any kind of life decision, including decisions regarding finances, health care, or physical care;
- Giving advice about, or interfering with a person's choice in, the use of medical care;
- Claiming any personal healing power (God is the source of healing power).

The ethics of a Christian Science practitioner include:

- Faithfully following the moral and spiritual requirements of faithful practice, including the rules and healing methodology given in Mary Baker Eddy's work, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*;
- Obeying the laws of the land;
- Observing the confidential communication requirements in the *Church Manual* (Article VIII, Section 22). (This obligation does not prevent the Christian Science practitioner from making disclosures if required by law.);
- Using his or her own prayerful wisdom and judgment in deciding whether to agree to help a person through prayer, or whether to terminate treatment for an individual by informing the individual of that decision;
- Charging for services provided; and reducing fees according to the *Church Manual* (Article VIII, Section 22).
- Discussing fees prior to the commencement of services.

Prepared by Christian Science Practitioner Activities  
The First Church of Christ, Scientist, August 2020

# The First Church of Christ, Scientist

---

## APPENDIX B: CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SCOPE OF SERVICES

Christian Science nursing is grounded in the Bible-based theology of Christian Science, which includes Christ Jesus' commandment to love one another (see John 15:12). This practical care is carried out with prayer, wisdom and skill, supporting the patient's decision to rely on Christian Science for healing, which includes treatment by prayer, generally from a *Journal*-listed Christian Science practitioner.

The founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, established the authority and standard for the Christian Science nurse in 1908, in the *Manual of The Mother Church*. (Page 49, Article VIII, Section 31):

***Christian Science Nurse.*** SECT. 31. *A member of The Mother Church who represents himself or herself as a Christian Science nurse shall be one who has a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice, who thoroughly understands the practical wisdom necessary in a sick room, and who can take proper care of the sick.*

*The cards of such persons may be inserted in The Christian Science Journal under rules established by the publishers.*

Individuals advertising in *The Christian Science Journal* and *The Herald of Christian Science* have presented satisfactory evidence that they fulfill the requirements in this By-Law.

This *Scope of Services* is intended to clarify for patients and other interested persons what they may expect when engaging the services of a Christian Science nurse. It touches briefly on the main aspects of, and ethical considerations related to, those services.

***Continued on the other side***

### **The care of the Christian Science nurse includes:**

- Accepting a case with the expectancy of complete and quick healing;
- Giving care that is consistent with the theology and ethics of Christian Science;
- Loving reassurance of God's tender care, ever-presence, and omnipotence; faithfully and consistently acknowledging each individual's spiritual perfection;
- Christian encouragement of a patient's appropriate expression of activity and vitality;
- Reading to or with an individual from the Bible, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* and other writings by Mary Baker Eddy; also, additional literature published by The Christian Science Publishing Society;
- Communication: maintaining an ethical, moral, and loving manner in all communications with the patient, family, friends, Christian Science practitioner, and others; observing ethical and legal requirements with regard to private information about the patient;
- Surroundings: maintaining an atmosphere that is conducive to spiritual healing and supportive of harmonious care;
- Personal care and bathing: assisting with all necessary care to meet the needs of cleanliness and comfort;
- Mobility: assisting with mobility including assisting with standing, walking, moving and settling with or without mobility aids or comfort items;
- Nourishment: preparing and modifying food; assisting with feeding; giving appropriate encouragement to eat;
- Cleansing/bandaging: cleansing, covering and bandaging, to provide for cleanliness, protection, support, and comfort;
- Instructing the patient or others in providing care for meeting individual needs;
- Being obedient to the laws of the land.

### **The care of the Christian Science nurse does not include:**

- Making a medical diagnosis or prognosis;
- Assuming responsibility for making health care decisions for the patient;
- Administering medication, drugs or using medicated, herbal, or vitamin-based products and remedies;
- Using and administering medically oriented techniques or technology, including, but not limited to, administering food or liquids with medical equipment, e.g.--intravenous feeding;
- Manipulation, massage, physical therapy;
- Assuming responsibility for a patient's financial or household business transactions;
- Intruding on the private relationship between the patient and the Christian Science practitioner, or between the patient and his or her family;
- Giving personal advice and counsel.

Fundamental to the ministry of a Christian Science nurse is active, prayerful affirmation of everyone's innate spirituality and responsiveness to God's harmonious government. This spiritual witnessing undergirds each aspect of the care a Christian Science nurse renders.