**Bathroom Policy**

The majority of youth-to-youth abuse in Club settings occur in bathrooms. Bathrooms should never be a place to gather or hangout. To improve the safety of your bathrooms, the following supervision guidelines are recommended:

***Preferred Supervision Method: Group Bathroom Breaks***

Whenever possible, Club staff should take groups of two or more youth to the bathrooms for “group bathroom breaks.” One adult should never escort one youth; always use the “rule of three” or more. Junior counselors, counselors in training, and volunteers should not escort youth to the bathrooms.

If the bathroom has only one stall, only one youth should enter the restroom at a time while the other youth wait outside with staff and volunteers. If there are multiple stalls, staff and volunteers should only send in as many youth as there are stalls. Staff should then stand outside of the bathroom with the door ajar in order to hear what is going on inside the bathroom.

***Optional Supervision Method: Monitoring Bathrooms***

In some Club settings, group bathroom breaks are not always feasible. In these circumstances, youth should ask permission before using the bathrooms, so that staff and volunteers know who is going to the restroom and when. Where possible a visual cue should be placed on the door to show that it is occupied.

 

***Locker Rooms:***

If youth need to change in a locker room, there should be two staff positioned to allow them to have a clear view of each other and all youth at all times.

***Other Considerations***

* Where possible remove or prop open doors to restrooms.
* Club staff should randomly and periodically monitor bathrooms to ensure that youth are not lingering there. It is important that staff periodically check restrooms so that youth know that an adult could walk in at any time.
* In public spaces, such as on a field trip, have staff do a sweep of the restroom. Ask other patrons to wait while your club youth are using the restroom.