

GUIDELINES FOR GROUPS USING PALM BEACH COUNTY BEACHES

1. Notify Ocean Rescue as far in advance as possible when bringing participants to a County Beach Park. Contact names will be provided if requested.

North District: (561) 694-7480

South District: (561) 629-8770

2. Call the **Beach Conditions** information report line before leaving for the beach to ensure that you are comfortable bringing a group under the current conditions.

North District: (561) 624-0065

South District: (561) 629-8775

Website: http://www.pbcgov.com/parks/beach_conditions/

3. The counselor/adult guardian ratio should be at least one counselor or adult guardian for every 12 participants. The ratio should be 1:8 when the seas are greater than 2' and/or when rip currents are present.
4. The head counselor should have a master list with them which includes each participant on the field trip. The list should show the swimming ability of each participant, along with an emergency contact name and phone number.
5. When arriving at the beach, the head counselor should check in with the lifeguard tower and provide the following:
 - A. The number of participants in the group, the number of non swimmers and the location on the beach where the group will be during the duration of the visit.
 - B. Information about any participant health conditions that they feel is necessary in order to ensure a safe visit.
 - C. A business card with the agency's name, contact person and phone number.
6. The lifeguards will warn the head counselor of any hazards and recommend the best area for the group to swim.
7. Obey all lifeguard instructions and review the rules and warnings posted on the "Daily Conditions" board with all participants and counselors/adult guardians.
8. Counselors should take a roll call upon arrival, periodically while at the park and prior to leaving. Counselors should immediately inform lifeguards of any missing persons.

Important Note:

- * Youth Day Camps have additional guidelines including advanced counselor supervision while in the water with youth. Please visit <http://www.pbcgov.com/parks/aquatics/beaches> for Camp Guidelines.