

Life's a Pilgrimage

SUUSI 2008

Dear Child Care Co-op Participants,

Welcome to the SUUSI Child Care Co-op, a part of the SUUSI Youth program! Please read all information in this letter carefully.

The co-op is designed to allow parents and guardians the opportunity to share nighttime supervision of their children during SUUSI, so that they can enjoy all that SUUSI Nightlife has to offer. Every adult who stays in the co-op dorm must participate in the shared supervision program; this includes not only all parents and guardians, but also any other adults staying in the co-op dorm. Any adults not wishing to participate in the shared supervision program should arrange to stay in the non co-op family dorm. If you have signed up for the child care co-op and do not wish to stay there, please contact Kate Hofmann, the SUUSI Registrar, *immediately* at registration@suusi.org or at 336-788-4639 (between 8 am and 8 pm only, please).

Prior to SUUSI, the co-op coordinator will assign shifts for shared supervision as registration information becomes available. Schedules will be posted on each dorm door and available at the Youth table at Sunday Check-in. *Each participant must also sign a waiver form at the Youth table at Sunday Check-in.*

The childcare coordinator will be available during the SUUSI Youth open house (Sunday night 8:30-9:00) to answer any questions. Co-op participants are free to swap shifts, but the co-op coordinator must be informed of all changes. If you have questions about the program, please contact Lois Stanton before SUUSI at 804-748-3265 or childcareco-op@suusi.org.

IMPORTANT – If you are on staff and have staff responsibilities between 9:30 pm and 1 am or if you are taking an evening workshop, please contact Lois Stanton by July 7. We will make every effort to accommodate reasonable scheduling requests because of staff duties or occasional evening workshops.

How it works:

Each evening parents/guardians staying in the co-op dorm may sign out and leave the dorm after their children are asleep or are in their rooms for the night. During this time, adults staying in the co-op provide supervision for children in the dorm in shifts usually lasting 2-2½ hours. Adult supervision is organized so that one adult is responsible for one hallway (approximately 6-8 suites). There are always multiple parents on duty. Typically parents are required to do one shift of 2-2½ hours during the week, but it is sometimes necessary for parents to do two shifts. This program provides parents staying in the co-op dorm with approximately 25 hours of shared supervision of their children in the evening during Nightlife programming.



Childcare Co-op Program details:

- Through the co-op, child care is open to children ages newborn to 13.
- Printed instructions/expectations for supervision along with sign-out sheets and a walkie-talkie will be provided for use at each post. These will be placed in the hallway just prior to the first evening shift each night.
- When parents sign out for the evening they must write down where they will be before returning to the dorm. If possible, they should also leave a cell phone number where they can be contacted or leave a personal walkie-talkie with the adult on duty.
- Parents should leave a towel draped over the door of the room the child is in to prevent the door closing and locking. This also marks the door for the co-op monitor.
- One adult is on duty on each hallway at all times during co-op hours with one additional adult serving as the runner.
- Before leaving for the evening, parents must either put their children to bed or in their room for those children old enough to put themselves to bed. If a child wakes up or otherwise needs his/her parent while they are out, the adult on duty in the hallway should immediately contact the parents if possible (such as if the parents left a cell phone number). Children may not be in the hallway, lounges or other public areas without their parent(s) present.
- If the adult on duty in the hallway cannot immediately contact the parents, s/he should use the co-op walkie-talkies to contact the adult on duty as the runner. The runner should immediately find the parents and ask them to return to their room.
- **Parents are expected to return before the end of the last co-op shift each evening.** Failure to do so puts the adult on duty in the difficult position of choosing between working beyond his or her scheduled time and leaving a child unsupervised. Your cooperation in this is expected and may be a condition of eligibility for future housing in the co-op dorm.

If you have any questions or concerns about participation, please contact me.

We're looking forward to seeing you at SUUSI!

Lois Stanton
childcareco-op@suusi.org
804.748.3265