

Team Safety Meeting Resources

Elementary School



Surprises vs. Secrets Activity

Abuse of any kind thrives in secrecy. Is it important for very young children to understand that anyone asking them to keep a “secret” about an activity or conversation they have been involved in should not feel obliged to keep a secret unless it is for the purposes of creating a surprise.

Therefore, this activity is focused on defining Secrets and Surprises, with Surprises having happy outcomes and Secrets creating confusion, icky feelings, sadness, or anger.

You should use examples that are age appropriate for your team members.

For early elementary you might ask:

- If someone told you they took another child’s lunch but “don’t tell anyone,” would that be a Secret or a Surprise?
- If your mom takes you shopping to buy your sister a birthday gift and tells you not to tell her what you bought, would you call that a Secret or Surprise?

These instructions are meant as a guide. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Youth Protection Program Manager,

Lee Doucette

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At the start of the season, Lead Coaches/Mentors are required to conduct a Safety Meeting. This meeting may be combined with the team’s existing start-of-season meeting or be held as a separate meeting. Subject to the Lead Coaches’/Mentors’ discretion and judgment, the Safety Meeting may be as brief or extensive as necessary, FIRST recommends including some or all of the following elements:

- View FIRST Youth Protection Team Safety Meeting video or activities for the age group/s you are working with
- Review Fundamental Safety Guidelines and program specific safety measures
- Discuss communication and behavioral limits as specified in the Code of Conduct, reviewing behavioral boundaries in age appropriate terms
- Establish clear responsibilities and means for reporting safety concerns

Encourage everyone involved with the team to discuss safety concerns with the Lead Coach/Mentor or other trusted adult, knowing that the concerns will be taken seriously and that there won’t be negative consequences for team member or a person raising concerns for their child/ren.

The videos and activities provided are optional tools to help initiate team conversations about personal safety. If you already have your team’s personal safety practices established, you do not need to duplicate efforts. If you prefer, you may conduct your team safety meeting with materials you already have.



SURPRISES

Surprises make everyone happy when revealed.





SECRETS

Secrets can be hurtful, scary, cause sadness, or anger.

