CONSENT NETWORK

Theme Camp Consent Risk Guidance

Version 1.4 (updated 29/02/2024)

Contents

Introduction 1
Theme Camp Consent Policy and Procedure 2
Consent Considerations for Creating a Safer Camp Space 3
Consent Must Report 4
Adult Theme Camp Requirements 5
Event Consent Group Chat 5
Meetings 5
Training 5
Theme Camp Consent Risk Form 6

Introduction

The Consent Network provides consent support to the UK Burning Man community including recruitment of event specific Consent Team volunteers, providing consent education literature and workshops, and managing consent incidents, investigations, mediations and decision making.

All theme camps just read this document, as well as complete and return the form at the end.

This document solely relates to consent within theme camps and their spaces. Expectations under Codes of Conduct, Health & Safety are beyond the remit of this document and should be sourced through the event organisation.

The Burning Nest Consent Team are here to help support you with education and resources but we're not here to deal with every single consent incident on site. Everyone is empowered to take responsibility for themselves and those around them, and theme camps have a greater responsibility for this by creating and hosting an open safer space.

The Consent Network provides a single unified online reporting form for use by events in addition to an email address. Some events may also have written reporting drop boxes.

http://tinyurl.com/ConsentReportForm
ConsentNetwork@gmail.com

Theme Camp Consent Policy and Procedure

Consent is an integral part of burn events and the burner community. It is the foundation on which we allow ourselves and others to apply the Principles like Radical Self-expression.

Theme Camps can play their part by having a written consent policy and procedure that is shared with camp members and the wider community. By making documents publicly visible you show to others that your camp takes consent seriously and you are helping to create a safer space in your camp.

As a Theme Camp Organiser you should have a Consent Policy and also procedures in place to deal with consent incidents within your camp, whether between camp members, during workshops hosted in your camp space or in your camp communal space during open sessions.

Here are some points that you may wish to include in your document:

1. Who is your designated camp consent lead, is it obvious who it is to non-camp members? You may consider assigning multiple leads to increase coverage or to place them on a rota pattern.
2. What are the consent expectations of your camp members? For example, verbal enthusiast consent can be the default requirement for all forms of engagement in your camp.
3. What to do if something goes wrong? Do all camp members know who to report problems to and how is the situation managed in a fair and consistent way?
4. How do you conduct internal (within camp) escalation? What if the camp consent lead is not available, what if an incident involves that lead or another person in a position of power and authority within the camp? How do you deal with a consent violation by someone in your camp who is not a lead but has provided significant camp infrastructure or transport? Do you have someone else within your camp (maybe not a lead and more independent) who is responsible for receiving internal escalated reports?
5. How do you manage external (without camp) escalation and reporting? Depending upon the event, Rangers, Site Lead, Security and Medics may be immediately available in the most serious of cases. All camp members must know how to summon support from the event (e.g. they know how to use the event radio and where it is kept).
6. How do you work with the Consent Team? Depending upon the event, the availability of the Consent Team will vary. Do you know what time they are on duty, where are they based or are they on call via the radio, what is the consent reporting form web address, what is their email address, where are the written reporting dropboxes? Have you asked the Consent Team to provide a consent input during a camp meeting? Have you asked them to support your internal investigations where there is an escalation and/or a conflict of interest?

Consent Considerations for Creating Safer Camp Spaces

The following points can help guide theme camps in understanding their potential consent related risks and what steps to take to mitigate the risks and improve safety.

All participants are expected to abide by the event Code of Conduct and any other requirements the event and individual theme camps put in place.

The following questions relate to your theme camp area and also shared spaces that are open to non-camp members. These questions do not apply to private areas, for example personal tents or staff rooms - even if they are within the theme camp catchment area.

You do not need to provide responses to the venue points but they should be factored into your general camp operations.

- Do you have space/facilities/equipment designated for adult/intimate/sexual activities, or where these activities could take place (eg. sex space, mattresses, soft area, sex toys, kink equipment, BDSM furniture, darker spaces)?
    - Are your spaces monitored?
    - Do you have the appropriate number of monitors in place?
    - What training do your monitors receive?
    - Are they monitors suitably sober and well rested enough for their shift?
    - How are the monitors identified to those entering and using your space?
    - Does everyone know what activities are and are not allowed?
    - How do you manage intoxication, consent and the use of the space?
- Do you have planned activities or workshops that involve physical contact or nudity (eg. massage, naked dance, contact improv, touch, shibari, cuddle puddles, orgies, wrestling, mutual or solo pleasuring)?
    - Have you checked the contents of the planned activity?
    - Have you conducted suitability checks on the facilitator?
    - Will everyone be briefed about obtaining consent at the start of the activity?
    - Have you ensured that the activity is not visible to non-participants of the workshop?
- What training or guidance have your camp members received for consent?
- When serving someone alcohol, how do you check that someone is legitimately attending the event and also over 18 years old?
    - Do you ask to see a wristband to ensure someone is over 18?
    - Do your volunteers know what a child wristband looks like?
    - How do you notify the event if someone does not have a wristband?
- How do you determine if someone is overly intoxicated and what do you do?
    - Do you have readily available water or know where it is to direct people?
    - Do you have a quiet space for someone to sit down?
- Will your theme camp be hosting workshops by non-camp members?
    - Do you know the exact contents of the workshop?
    - Have you conducted suitability checks on the workshop facilitator?
    - Will anyone from your camp be supporting or supervising workshops and be in a position to intervene or dream with a consent incident?
- Do you have any camp members that are known to have had consent issues in the past?
    - Have you engaged with these camp members about their past issues?
    - Have you applied conditions on them being a camp member?
    - Have you noticed the event Consent Team about this person?

- Do you have procedures for raising additional support from the camp members?
    - Do you have designated guardians, space sitters, or sober shifts?
    - Do you have your own online group chat or other method of fast time communication?
- Do you have procedures for raising support from the event organisation?
    - Does your camp have an event radio and does everyone know how to use it and where it is kept?
    - Is there an event consent group chat and who in your camp is a member of it?
    - Do you know where Consent, Rangers, Welfare, Security, Medics etc. are located and what their operational hours are?
- Do all of your camp members know how to report a consent violation or concern?
    - Are your own internal reporting procedures clear and easily available to all camp members?
    - Do camp members know how to contact the event Consent Leads or how to make anonymous reports?

Consent Must Report

You must notify the Consent Team if any of the below applies, this does not stop you from notify the team for anything else consent related or asking for consent support at any time:

- Theme Camps/Team Leads: Where you have applied conditions of attendance to any member of your camp/team or anyone attending the event in relation to a previous consent incident (you do not have to notify about non-consent related conditions).
- Theme Camps: Any non-consensual incident that results in someone being removed from (or asked to leave) your camp area. This includes both camp members and non-camp members.
- Any incident involving a member of the Consent Network or event Consent Team, where they were not on duty or were not directly asked to assist.
- Any non-consensual incident involving a person in a position of power, authority or trust (regardless of whether they were on duty or not). This includes:
    - A UK Burning Man Regional Contact (for a list see: https://regionals.burningman.org/regionals/europe/uk/).
    - A Director or Trustee for that specific event (officially affiliated Burning Man events only).
    - An Event Lead (this includes co-leads but does not include shift leads or general volunteers).
    - A Theme Camp lead (or any camp member in a position of power, authority or trust regardless of their title or role).
    - A workshop facilitator or host.

Adult Theme Camp Requirements

If any theme camp intends to offer a space that can be used for adult, intimate or sexual activity, you must notify the event Consent Leads. They can provide guidance on how your camp can be set up and run more safely.

By organising a higher consent risk theme camp you are expected to have a comprehensive Consent Policy and Procedures and make it available to the event organisation and Consent Team before the event.

If the event Consent Team decide to create a WhatsApp chat group, you are expected to have at least one member of your theme camp (ideally the Theme Camp Consent Lead) to be a member of it.

The Consent Team is not responsible for filling gaps in your volunteering schedule or dealing with incidents that should have been well within your theme camp's ability to manage.

Where an event Consent Team feels that negligence or irresponsibility on behalf of an adult theme camp has resulted in a consent violation, the Consent Team may recommend that the event takes suitable action, including but not limited to:

- Issuing a formal warning to the theme camp
- Placing conditions of attendance on the theme camp for future events
- Refusing theme camp placement

Event Consent Group Chat

The event Consent Team may determine that group chat containing the Consent Team and Theme Camp Consent Leads would be appropriate (depending upon the size of the event, the overall consent risk identified and available mobile phone reception at the event).
This will allow Theme Camp Consent Leads to contact the Consent Leads immediately and also allow the Consent Leads to notify you of any serious incidents or when information is required. You are not expected to be online and connected during the entire event. Membership of this chat group is completely optional and there are no negative consequences if you opt out or if you do not read or reply to messages. This system has previously proved to be a useful way of quickly disseminating consent information and summoning event consent support.

Meetings

The Consent Team may organise online meetings before an event or in person meetings during an event if there is sufficient requirement.

Training

If your camp or your Theme Camp Consent Lead would benefit from consent training with the Consent Team, please contact the event Consent Team.

The Consent Team are here to support you and your camp in creating a safer burn for all participants. If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything consent related please contact the Consent Team.

Theme Camp Consent Risk Form

Completed forms to be sent to the event Consent Team no later than one month prior to the start of the event.

Please select one of the below options:

A) Our theme camp is an adult, intimate or sex camp. *The Theme Camp Consent Lead details are included below.*

B1) Our theme camp does not involve adult, intimate or sexual activity but we do have a Theme Camp Consent Lead and would also like to be included in the event Consent WhatsApp chat group. *The Theme Camp Consent Lead details are included below.*

C) Our theme camp does not involve adult, intimate or sexual activity, and we do not wish to join the event Consent WhatsApp chat group. *Please complete the first two boxes only.*

EVENT NAME & YEAR	
Theme Camp Name	
Theme Camp Consent Lead Name	
Theme Camp Consent Lead Email	
Theme Camp Consent Lead Mobile Number	
Expected Arrival at Event Site	
Expected Departure of Event Site	
⬜ I have read the contents of this Theme Camp Consent Risk Guidance document and understand my obligations in helping to create a safer event. Where provided, I consent to having my mobile number added to a group chat with other Theme Camp Consent Leads and the event Consent Team. I understand that my display name/alias and phone number will be visible to these other people.	

By completing this form you consent for your information to be processed by the event Consent Team and the Consent Network, and used for operational and consent safety purposes.