I. PURPOSE:

This policy provides standards for OYA field staff when reviewing youth offender recreational activities in the community.

II. POLICY DEFINITIONS:

**Recreation**: Any play or leisure activity in which offenders participate, either structured or unstructured. Recreation activities are intended to refresh, offer sport, and/or pastime. Recreation is all those things that a person or group chooses to do in order to make leisure time more interesting, more enjoyable, and more personally satisfying.

**Substitute care placements**: Any of the out-of-home care and treatment programs authorized by OYA to serve offenders in OYA custody, including contracted residential treatment programs and certified foster homes. Substitute care placements exclude OYA’s close-custody facilities.

**Substitute care providers**: Persons authorized by OYA through contract or other written agreement to provide supervision and care for offenders on parole or probation status in the community. Such persons include, but are not limited
III. **POLICY:**

OYA recognizes recreational activities provide youth offenders positive reinforcement and healthy prosocial alternatives to boredom and illegal behavior. Recreation develops concepts of cooperation and sportsmanship. Purposeful youth offender recreational activities can develop positive physical, cognitive, social, and emotional skills.

IV. **GENERAL STANDARDS:**

A. **Activity Approval Process**

1. The approval process outlined below is required only for those youth offender recreational activities that:

   a) Require a moderate to high level of technical expertise to perform safely;

   b) Present environmental hazards; or

   c) Require or recommend special certification or training (e.g. whitewater rafting, rock climbing, Ropes courses, recreating on or in any body of water where a certified lifeguard is not present and on duty, backpacking, mountain climbing).

2. **Foster Home Placements**

   a) The foster parents, foster care certifier, and youth offender must review and sign a completed OYA Recreational Activity Risk Assessment (YA 3080) form.

   b) OYA staff must notify the foster care certifier of any concerns with the activity.

   c) The original signed YA 3080 must be retained in the master foster home file.

      The foster care certifier must send a copy of the signed YA 3080 to the youth offender’s juvenile parole/probation officer (JPPO).

   d) The youth offender’s JPPO, and parent/guardian (if available), must review and sign a completed Consent for OYA Youth to Participate in Recreational Activity (YA 3081) form.

   e) The JPPO must retain the original YA 3081 in the youth offender’s file.
Copies must be sent to the foster parents and foster care certifier.

3. Residential Treatment Program Placements

a) Residential treatment program staff and Community Resources Unit staff must sign a completed YA 3080.

b) OYA staff must notify the Community Resources Unit liaison of any concerns with the activity.

c) Community Resources Unit staff must send a copy of the signed YA 3080 to the residential treatment program for individual youth offender signature and distribution to the JPPO(s).

The original YA 3080 signed by Community Resources Unit staff (without individual youth offender signatures) will be retained by the Community Resources Unit.

d) The youth offender’s JPPO, and parent/guardian (if available), must sign a completed YA 3081.

e) The JPPO must retain the original YA 3081 in the youth offender’s file.

Copies must be sent to the residential treatment program.

4. The JPPO may determine whether subsequent approval via a YA 3081 is necessary for an identical recreational activity for the same youth offender when the youth offender does not present any higher level of risk, and is living in the same substitute care placement.

5. Community Resources Unit staff may determine whether subsequent approval via YA 3080 is necessary for a residential treatment program planning an identical recreational activity when the youth offenders do not present any higher level of risk.

6. The foster care certifier may determine whether subsequent approval via a YA 3080 is necessary for a foster home planning an identical recreational activity for the same youth offender or for youth offenders who do not present a higher level of risk.
B. Restrictions

1. Youth offender travel outside of Oregon for recreational purposes must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
   a) The Community Services Assistant Director must review every request for youth offender travel to another state for recreational purposes and approve or deny the request.
   b) Staff will ensure interstate compact agreements are followed when necessary.

2. OYA will not approve youth offender participation in hunting activities when a youth offender is in a substitute care placement. No exceptions may be made to this standard.

3. OYA staff will not sign Release of Liability forms for youth offender participation in recreational activities.

V. LOCAL OPERATING PROTOCOL REQUIRED: NO