



We Care!

UNITY Safety, Curfew, and Crisis Protocols

UNITY participants' and youth's safety and well-being are our utmost priority. As we prepare for this year's National UNITY Conference, please know we will work closely with all advisors and chaperones to promote a safe experience. In fact, during the planning of UNITY events, we work closely with each host property's security team to outline safety tips and protocols. Please note, that UNITY requires all trainers, contractors, and staff to submit background checks. We remain dedicated to maintaining a secure environment for all participants and will continue to uphold our commitment to their welfare.

UNITY Group Safety Tips

To ensure clarity and ease of response, it is important that advisors and chaperones have well-thought-out procedures in place to handle potential crises. Advisors and chaperones know their youth the best. The tip sheet provides suggested guidelines.

UNITY Spirit Room

This year, an expert Cultural Wellness and Prevention trainers team will host UNITY's Spirit Room. The Spirit Room will be available throughout the conference, designed to provide a supervised, safe space for Native youth and Advisors to gather, pray, meditate, or share cultural teachings. (Native youth will need to be accompanied by an Advisor) This space can also serve as a quiet place for anyone who may experience sensory overload or need time for reflection. The Wellness team is led by UNITY Alumni Hunter Genia, Lovina Louie, and Sheldon Smith.

Interventions, treatment, crisis assessment, and counseling are not available on-site. The Spirit Room is designed to provide calm, focus, prayer, and comfort to people while attending the Conference. The Spirit Room will close each night at 11:45 pm.

Mental Health Support

The FCC has designated 988 as a nationwide 3-digit number for mental health crisis and suicide prevention services, sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Callers will be connected to a specialist who will listen to their concerns and connect them to relevant resources. The helpline will be promoted throughout the conference.

Emergency Mental Health Care

Call 988

Or text "HelpLine" to 62640

Buddy System

Where's your buddy? Every year, UNITY encourages youth participants to keep an eye on each other. A buddy system is a common way to reduce risk in any environment. Of course, it's just one way to promote safety. We encourage youth to check in with each other not only but also with their advisors. Daily huddles with youth and advisors are encouraged. UNITY peer groups conduct daily debriefs to address any concerns. A group chat, with everyone's cell phone numbers, is also a good way to keep track of each other. We suggest that youth be accompanied by a chaperone or Advisor anytime they leave the host hotel's designated conference area.

UNITY Safety Team - Wearing Vests in Hallways

A conference safety team is a group of people who work together to ensure the safety of attendees at a conference. Look for Safety Team members wearing UNITY Vests.

How do conference safety teams work?

- Identify hazards in Convention Center: Conference safety teams identify and assess potential hazards at the conference
- Communicate: Conference safety teams communicate with Advisors in the Advisor Trainings about any safety concerns to look out for. They will report to the Registration Desk and Jason Coochwyewa .

Make recommendations: Conference safety teams make recommendations to prevent future incidents post conference to enhance safety plans.

National UNITY Conference – Youth Safety & Curfew Policy

For Advisors & Chaperones

This policy outlines supervision expectations, venue and hotel safety guidelines, Oklahoma City curfew laws, and conference requirements for all advisors supervising youth delegates.

Conference Locations

Oklahoma City Convention Center

Omni Oklahoma City Hotel (host hotel)

100 West Oklahoma City Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73109

Hotel: (405) 438-6500

Email: OKCDTN.Leads@Omnihotels.com

1. General Conference & Venue Safety

Badge & Access Control

- All youth and advisors must wear official conference badges at all times.
- Restricted areas are off-limits without proper credentials.

Prohibited Items

- Weapons, drones, hoverboards, illegal substances, and unsafe items are prohibited.
- Smoking and vaping are not permitted inside the Convention Center.

Emergency Procedures

- Advisors must familiarize themselves with:
 - Emergency exits
 - Evacuation routes
 - First aid and medical response locations
- Immediately report safety concerns to venue security or conference staff.

2. Advisor & Chaperone Responsibilities

Active Supervision

- Advisors must actively supervise youth (ages 14–24) at all times.
- A buddy system is strongly required.
- Conduct nightly headcounts and room checks.

Communication Requirements

Advisors are encouraged to:

- Carry a full youth roster
- Have emergency contact information
- Share their mobile number with youth in their care
- Establish daily check-in procedures

Incident Reporting

- All safety incidents involving police or emergency medical officials require a form to be filled out and turned into **the Registration Desk** and must be reported immediately to conference leadership.
- **Jason Coochwyte** is serving as the main contact for Crisis Management at the **National Conference**. His personal contact information will be shared directly with Advisors and Chaperone at the First Advisor meeting on the first night of the conference. Here is a copy of the Incident Report:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gFI0nBttY_alLx-rC4XT_fxBiJc6T4aJ/view?usp=sharing

Text Alert System - Contact Information:

On the first night of the Conference, all Advisors and Chaperones are asked to enroll their text phone number to the emergency contact list. In case of emergencies, UNITY uses the text blast to distribute crowd directions. It is the responsibility of each Advisor and Chaperone to enroll in this text alert system.

This is covered on the First Day of the Advisor Training Session when they review the Crisis Management Plan. It is essential that attendees provide their updated cell phone numbers in the Registration to be included in the crisis texts. They can remove themselves from this list at any time. Similarly, the Emergency Contact information must be provided on the Registration for their guardians and relatives.

3. Oklahoma City & Bricktown Curfew Laws

Bricktown Youth Curfew

In the Bricktown entertainment district:

- Youth under 18 may not be in public spaces between **9:00 PM – 6:00 AM** unless accompanied by a responsible adult.

Citywide Conference Curfew (UNITY Policy)

- UNITY will enforce a conference curfew beginning at **12:00 AM (midnight)** each night.

- All youth must be:
 - In their assigned hotel rooms, OR
 - At officially sanctioned conference programming, OR
 - Directly supervised by an advisor

Advisors are responsible for ensuring compliance with both city law and conference policy.

4. Host Hotel Safety – Omni Oklahoma City Hotel

Check-In & Room Policies

- Check-in: 4:00 PM
- Check-out: 11:00 AM
- Guests must be 18+ to check in.
- Youth must be registered and assigned to approved rooms.

Elevator & Floor Access

- Guest room floors may require key access.
- Only registered guests should be on room floors.

Noise & Conduct Policy

- Quiet hours begin at 10:00 PM.
- Excessive noise or disturbances may result in removal from hotel property without refund.
- Advisors must enforce room curfew and behavioral expectations.

Non-Smoking Policy

- The hotel is entirely non-smoking, including vaping.
- Violations may result in significant cleaning fees.

General Hotel Safety

- No room parties.
- No switching rooms without advisor approval.
- Advisors should conduct nightly room checks.
- Youth should not invite non-registered guests into rooms.

5. Downtown & Travel Safety

- Travel in groups only.
- Use well-lit and populated routes.
- Establish a designated meeting location if separated.
- Youth should never travel alone after dark.
- Advisors should avoid allowing youth unsupervised time in entertainment districts.

6. Sponsoring Tribe or Organization Protocols (Recommended Best Practice)

In addition to conference, venue, hotel, and city policies, advisors are **strongly encouraged** to check with their sponsoring Tribe, Nation, school, or organization to determine whether additional safety, supervision, cultural, or conduct protocols may apply to their youth delegation.

Some sponsoring organizations may have:

- Earlier curfew expectations
- Stricter supervision ratios
- Cultural protocols or expectations
- Dress guidelines
- Travel authorization requirements
- Additional codes of conduct

If a sponsoring organization maintains stricter expectations than conference policy, advisors are encouraged to follow the higher standard whenever possible.

Advisors are encouraged to:

- Communicate any additional expectations to youth and families prior to arrival
- Review organization-specific policies before departure
- Coordinate with UNITY staff if clarification is needed

7. Youth Code of Conduct

Youth delegates are expected to:

- Follow advisor instructions at all times.

- Remain with their assigned group.
- Respect hotel guests, conference attendees, and the public.
- Comply with all curfew laws and conference requirements.
- Wear badges at all times.

Failure to comply may result in:

- Parent/guardian notification
- Sponsoring organization notification
- Removal from conference activities
- Early dismissal from the conference at the sponsoring group's expense

Helpful Links:

- **Helpful Local Resources and ICE information:**
<https://unityinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/2026-UNITY-National-Conference-Safety-Flyer-.pdf>
- **Know Before You Go Advisor Checklist:**
https://www.canva.com/design/DAHBnulmG4g/q78BZGBERsRRoNOZ3wQWrA/view?utm_content=DAHBnulmG4g&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniqueLinks&utlId=h08ac7dbdd0
- **Safety Plan Template for Advisors to fill out before traveling:**
https://unityinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/UNITY_Travel_Safety_Plan_Template-1-1-10.docx
- **Sign Up to Share Good Medicine at the UNITY Fire:**
<https://forms.gle/1eC4zFkVNSQF1uTZ6>