

**Idaho Department of
Juvenile Corrections
Institutional
Policy/Procedure**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>REVISED</u>	<u>REVIEWED</u>
664	06/11/18	06/11/18
<u>FORMERLY</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE</u>	<u>PAGES</u>
	12/03/01	3

SUBJECT: CHALLENGE COURSE

CATEGORY: FACILITY OPERATIONS

Policy

The Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections (IDJC) makes every reasonable effort to assure the safe and effective use of the challenge course located on the grounds of any IDJC facility. This requires strict adherence to the procedures outlined below and to the operational manual developed for each course. The challenge activity course is not a recreational resource and is not to be used in that capacity by juveniles or staff under any circumstances.

IDJC will also encourage the use of the challenge course by juvenile justice groups from the community as long as the sponsoring agency is willing to fully support and comply with the associated rules, regulations, and policies. This will help manage the liability of each facility and will help to assure the continued safety and security of each facility.

Operating Procedures

The challenge courses located at IDJC facilities are intended to:

- A. Provide juveniles of the facility the opportunity to practice and to reinforce, in a potentially stressful challenging situation, the skills necessary for a successful return to the community.
- B. Provide groups of juveniles with a challenge activity designed to foster team building and constructive problem-solving within the group.
- C. Provide an experiential learning opportunity for juveniles from the community who have become involved in the juvenile justice system.
- D. Facilitate the development of team building, problem-solving, and other skills among juvenile justice staff from the facility and the community.
- E. Reinforce and strengthen the skills of a family group in preparing for a juvenile's return to the home in specific cases where such intervention has been determined to be useful within the context of a juvenile's individual treatment plan.

Local Operating Procedures

JCC–Lewiston

Not Applicable. JCC–Lewiston does not have a challenge course.

JCC–Nampa

Not Applicable. JCC–Nampa does not have a challenge course.

JCC–St. Anthony

- I. Only the Superintendent, or designee, may authorize the use of or access to the JCC–St. Anthony Challenge Course. Use of the course is requested on the Staff-Supervised Activities in the Community Request (DJC-128) form.
- II. JCC–St. Anthony juveniles and staff shall not have access to or use the course without a brief written plan detailing goals, staff and/or juveniles involved, challenge elements to be used, and dates and times of the purposed activity. The plan must be signed and approved in advance by the Unit Manager, Programs Manager, Recreation Coordinator, Safety and Security Supervisor (SSOS), Education Program Manager, and Superintendent, or designee. It is the Rehabilitation Specialist or Unit Manager's responsibility to see that this is done. Certified challenge course facilitators must be included in developing the plan to assure the best and safest use of specific challenge elements.

The SSOS is specifically included in the approval process to assure that security staff is aware in advance of any use of the challenge course, thus allowing them to immediately terminate any unauthorized access of the course.

- III. Scheduling and access to, and use of the course is handled through the JCC–St. Anthony Recreation Coordinator. Scheduling is contingent upon previous commitments in education and cottage life and upon the availability of JCC–St. Anthony staff certified as facilitators. The number of certified staff assigned to an activity is dependent upon the size of the group and the scope of the activities planned. There are a minimum of two staff assigned, regardless of the size of the participating group.
- IV. Staff, other than those assigned to provide supervision, may be scheduled to participate depending upon the activity plan, but only certified staff are allowed to lead and facilitate challenge activities.
- V. Community groups wanting to use the challenge course are required to meet all of the above requirements. In addition, they must sign a written agreement, Challenge Course Liability Waiver and Assumption of Risk Agreement (DJC-132) acknowledging awareness of and compliance with all relevant IDJC and JCC–St. Anthony policies and regulations and with the operational manual for the challenge course activity. Individual participants are required to sign the waiver of liability form.
- VI. Staff from other state and community agencies who have been certified on the JCC–St. Anthony challenge course may lead and facilitate challenge activities for off-campus groups as long as they meet all relevant standards established in the operational manual and have been recertified within the last two years. All conditions above related to scheduling and agreement to comply with IDJC and JCC–St. Anthony policies apply. In all cases where certified community staff lead and facilitate a challenge activity, at least one JCC–St. Anthony certified staff must be present to observe and to assure safety. JCC–St. Anthony staff may immediately terminate use of the course for documented safety reasons.
- VII. JCC–St. Anthony and community staff certified by a designated challenge course trainer strictly abide by the limits of the level of their certification and the operational

manual. Recertification by a trainer designated by JCC–St. Anthony must be met at least every two years. Recertification is held annually. At the time of recertification, the individual's level of certification may change as determined by the trainer.

- VIII. Certified JCC–St. Anthony staff may fill a variety of roles in assisting groups from campus and the community to plan for and provide a challenge activity.
- A. Challenge certified JCC–St. Anthony staff are called upon to lead and facilitate challenge activities for on-campus groups of juveniles and staff and they are called upon to:
1. Lead and facilitate group challenge activities for groups of juveniles and/or staff involved in juvenile justice from the community.
 2. Assist treatment teams from campus with planning a challenge activity.
 3. Assist staff from the community who is involved in juvenile justice to plan a challenge activity.
 4. Observe community groups using the course without JCC–St. Anthony facilitators to assure compliance with all safety standards.
 5. Document and report any and all incidents that take place during a challenge activity which reflect on the staff at the course, the skills of challenge facilitators, inappropriate conduct on the part of staff, facilitators, or participants, as well as report injuries and maintenance issues.
- IX. The challenge course at JCC–St. Anthony will be available for use each spring after completion of a yearly inspection certifying that the course remains safe for use as intended.
- X. Certified challenge facilitators from outside of JCC–St. Anthony may be used to co-facilitate (not lead) challenge activities for on-campus groups. In all such cases, the certification must have been earned from the designated challenge course trainer.

Reference: [Glossary of Terms and Acronyms](#)

Related Policies: [Community Public Relations](#) (630)
[Documentation of Incidents](#) (600)
[Juvenile Supervision](#) (608)

Related Forms: [Challenge Course Liability Waiver and Assumption of Risk Agreement](#)
[\(DJC-132\)](#)
[Staff-Supervised Activities in the Community Request Form \(DJC-128\)](#)