

BEDucator Script

Hey, Everyone! My name is . . . [name] and this is my fellow BEDucator . . . [name]

We are BED volunteers here to talk about our 11th Principle of Consent with you all.

So how's your burn going????!??

[Response]

I *said* how's your burn going???????

Outside of regionals, there's nothing like Burning Man anywhere else in the world.

Have you ever wondered why that is? Have you ever sat down and wondered--

What makes a burn happen?

What's the magic ingredient that makes *us* burners and not Coachella-ers?

[SWITCH SPEAKER]

Ask most burners and they'll say the 10 Principles. This is such a foundational part of what Burning Man is that Larry Harvey found a NEED for these 10 principles when they were created.

What if I told you that you understand the 10 Principles because you understand the one word that all 10 Principles need to work--consent?

Consent is the simple idea that nobody has the right to your body except for you. It's the basic idea underpinning all free societies. It's your body. You own it. You set the rules for it. No one has the right to your body or your belongings except for you.

Consent is permission that you give for others to operate on you, to hug you, to shake your hand, to fuck you, to kiss you, to touch your shoulder--anything that involves your body or your belongings must be consensual.

Take a good look at the 10 Principles and imagine removing the element of consent from them. Would any of them work? In BED, we're convinced the answer is no. That's why we believe consent is the 11th principle!

Radical consent is what creates this amazing event. Anything that attacks consent, attacks our community. There's no event without consent!

[SWITCH SPEAKER]

BEDucator Training

So, we are a group of volunteers with varying levels of public speaking. We have redesigned our BED program and have taken it *online*. *Why?*

Because *you* can be the person standing here on the stage. Burners are planners and most of our planning is done *before* we get to playa. If each camp makes it mandatory to have a BED Talk done by *their own* campmate, then we have the potential to reach *100% of Burning Man* and push the 11th Principle of Consent.

YOU are now the Camp BEDucator! Every camp should have one. YOU get with your Camp Leads and have the discourse on what *your* Consent Policy is and how your camp handles Problem/Resolutions *before* Burning Man. Then you inform your *campmates* during your BED Talk about what those policies are and *who* to go to approach when you need help.

We have a Consent Enforcement Procedure (weird name, right?) which is how we approach consent issues. This is done by you and not just your leaders. You ARE a leader just by being here!

Our Consent Enforcement Policy is.... Step 1-- The “Hey! How’s It Going?”

What this is - is harm reduction. We NEVER ASSUME ill-intent. We walk up and say "Hey how's it going?" This allows you to gain more information in a very friendly way. Most of the time it's not what we think. 99% of the time, there’s nothing that’s going on that’s wrong, so we’re just getting more information. If your spidey senses are going off, then we move to step two which is called The Teachable Moment.

What is a Teachable Moment?

[SWITCH SPEAKER]

The Teachable Moment is just that; teaching people our boundaries and using our words. Talk about how your camp believes in our 11th Principle of Consent where everyone needs an enthusiastic yes to engage with anyone meaning touching, hugging, fetching them a drink, dancing, or anything that has to do with physical engagement. This reinforces your Consent Policy for campmates and guests and shows that we are watching out for our community. The point is not to shame, but to verbalize the line in the sand so the boundary is understood.

Once the boundary is understood and it is crossed *again*, it can result in a temporary or permanent ban.

So Step 3 is Removal.

We strive not to have any emotion when it comes to the removal process. Removing someone is a natural consequence that holds people accountable to our principles including consent. This could be an over-intoxicated guest or it could be a campmate who has to pack up and leave. If you completed the BEducator Training pre-burn, then you would've already had the discourse with your leaders on who makes this decision and how to execute your camp's consent policy.

It's understood our Camp Leads are also volunteers and might not have the capacity to handle every situation. Please find someone with a radio if things need to escalate.

[SWITCH SPEAKER]

In the U.S., one in three women and one in six men experienced some form of contact with sexual violence in their lifetime.

When your body isn't your own, when it's subject to a lifetime's onslaught of violations, both large and small—you tend to close down.

Assault dims the fire shining in us all. Even though consent is what builds the burn, for some, life experiences make it harder to dance, sing or frolic at a burn. Feeling free to fully exist, to be naked, or to be vulnerable can feel impossible.

If we want that outrageously beautiful cacophony of laughing, dancing human expression, we can't allow even one of us to be assaulted. We must all do our part to stop it.

Preventing assault

As I look around me today, I see people who are committed to erasing sexual assault at the burn. You guys are fucking amazing and I salute you all!

We're going to go over some practical ways to prevent sexual assault and in the process, we're going to take a close look at ourselves—and maybe adjust some of our attitudes along the way. If something I say shocks you, take a moment to sit with it and see if it rings true. I've never met anybody so perfect they didn't need to examine themselves every once in a while.

Things We've All Probably Screwed Up

So, my fellow burners, what are some consent boundaries you've probably screwed up? Hugs come to mind immediately. Burners are a touchy, feely, huggy lot, it's true. But people have the right to choose if they want to be touched or not.

Here's how to get consent to hug somebody—

Making big physical gestures by holding your arms out and reaching for a hug even while asking can be very difficult to turn down.

Use your words to ask for consent. Just ask, "Would you like a hug? Friendly wave?" And let them come to you or not.

Have some empathy, and don't take it personally if the answer is no. Turning down a hug is not easy, so help empower people by making it easy for them to choose what's best for themselves.

[SWITCH SPEAKER

Impaired Judgment

Other consent violations (often) happen because our judgment is impaired. Many things can impair our judgment, right? Have you ever done something stupid because you just weren't thinking at the moment? We all have.

What's the Number One, Super Duper, Impair-er of All Things Judgment? Come on! We all know it!

The Destroyer of Common Sense! [SWITCH SPEAKER]

The Elixir of Sexiness! [SWITCH SPEAKER]

The Magic Liquid that makes you an awesome dancer! [SWITCH SPEAKER]

The Comedian in a Bottle! [SWITCH SPEAKER]

Part 3--Alky-hol and Other Drugs

That's right—BOOZE!

Has anybody here ever drunk alcohol? Anybody?

Ever done anything stupid while drunk?

[Deliver next paragraph in rapid-fire announcer voice]

Alcohol, as I'm sure you will all be surprised to know, can change how people act. Formerly smart people may shed brain cells rapidly while drunk. Stand-offish people may suddenly be friendly. It has all sorts of effects.

Drinking and other drugs can loosen you up and help you shed inhibitions.

[SWITCH SPEAKER]

BUTTTT, they can also lead to Bad Decisions. The kind that haunts you long after the booze/drugs leave your system. That's one reason we're here, in BED together--to help you not make those Bad Decisions.

One of the worst Bad Decisions you can make is hooking up with someone too wasted to give consent.

Public Service Announcement!

Most reported sexual assaults involve alcohol and drugs. That's a fact. One or both parties are slammed when most sexual assaults happen. Since we're talking about prevention, we're advising you - yes YOU - not to try to get laid while intoxicated. Why?

Well, didn't we just cover this? People (YOU) are impaired while drinking and doing drugs! That means YOU (And I) miss signals, misunderstand situations, and are generally less in control of our actions while intoxicated! You may get more sexually aggressive, you may miss signals to stop, you may decide to shag somebody who is so hammered they can't give consent--BECAUSE YOU'RE INTOXICATED AND YOUR JUDGEMENT IS IMPAIRED.

[SWITCH SPEAKER]

Make a plan

That's why we make a plan before we get intoxicated! Do you want to get it on? Then plan ahead.

Ask yourself, can you limit yourself to being pleasantly buzzed and loose? If so, consider doing that. Know your limits and have a great time!

You don't know how what your consuming will affect you? Get a buddy or trip-sitter.

Part 4: Intervention—Curious Burner Mode and “Hey! How’s it going?”

Alrighty then! Now that we've talked about things that impair our judgment, let's talk about what to do when you see something happening that looks fishy. People often ignore troubling behavior--not because they condone it, but because they simply don't know what to do at the moment. It can be incredibly hard to know how to respond to a situation you weren't expecting.

But if you ignore troubling behavior or pretend nothing could be going wrong, you lose the chance to intervene and protect someone before it is too late. So if you see something, get nosy! Investigate on your own or grab a friend or a bystander to come with you.

You're about to learn a highly technical, super advanced phrase that you'll use when you see something hinky.

Are you ready?

“Hey! How's it going?”

Okay now repeat “Hey! How’s it going?” back to me on three.

Ready? One.. Two... Three!

[Response]

One more time! “Hey! How’s it going?” on three! Ready?

One..Two..Three!

[Response]

[SWITCH SPEAKER]

We’re going to play a game now called **What’s Happening?**

I’m going to give you a scenario and you tell me What’s Happening.

Just shout your answer out!

Okay, You’re in a bar.

A person walks up to another person who is very inebriated. They talk for a brief moment, then the first person half drags, half carries, and half leads the drunk person out of the bar.

[Point to someone in the crowd]

What’s Happening?

[Point to someone in the crowd]

What’s Happening?

[Pause and look at the crowd]

So what is happening?

It could be something really bad, or it could be something perfectly innocent. We don't know.

Now is the time to investigate and you do it using the highly technical, super advanced phrase we told you about earlier. Does everybody remember it?

[SWITCH SPEAKER]

"Hey! How's it going?"

So you approach the two people, you whip out your technical phrase and you say.

"Hey! How's it going?"

The idea is twofold. Burners look out for each other by removing the bystander effect. You're letting people know this. It's also a very friendly way to just get more information *without assuming ill-intention*. You know what they say about assumptions - it makes an ass out of you and me!

Just by approaching and saying "Hey! How's it going?", you reduced the odds of a sexual assault happening! Your presence shows there are eyes on the situation which automatically makes a person less vulnerable. That's some powerful stuff! So how do we know if something is going on that's wrong?

You don't. But your spidey sense might not be tingling. The person dragging the drunk person was open and friendly. The drunk kept insisting they loved their friend soooo much but they were always dragging them away from the fun. Boo!

It's a judgment call. You can't know for sure what's in somebody's mind any more than you can tell if they are blackout drunk. The important thing is burners look out for each other.

Checking in is part of being part of this community and can even lead to some new friends in the process.

In this case, you find out a campmate was taking an inebriated friend back to camp to sleep it off, but what if it was something else?

[SWITCH SPEAKER]

The Teachable Moment

If you find your spidey senses are going off from giving a “Hey! How’s it going!”, then we move on to what’s called the Teachable Moment. Again, this is verbally stating our boundaries and helping people who might be too drunk to consent to sexual relations and we act as Consent Ambassadors when we see people who need help. You can do this step yourself or when you see other people need your help. Our verbiage is:

“Hey, we had a moment. Burning Man lives by the Principle of Consent and this person is too intoxicated to consent to leave with anyone.” Rely on our culture’s principles to verbally create the line in the sand that they are about to cross.

The point of drawing a line in the sand, verbally, is so we *create* that line aloud. This is just one situation and there are an infinite number of reasons to give a Teachable Moment and it’s impossible to know them all. Fall back on our principles and the principle of consent.

The “Hey, we had a moment...” is our opening statement where you define what you saw in a non-shaming way to teach our culture how to change their behavior. The person you are talking to might not know that it’s not okay to engage with someone who is too wasted to consent. Really! Our whole goal here is *changed behavior*, and we support this by the community backing up consent with this Teachable Moment.

Previous generations have had different social norms and we are EDUCATING everyone on what our social norms are today. How many times have you talked about Burning Man and people respond with “Isn’t that a place where people have a bunch of orgies?” Even though there's a lot of lovin' out here, our culture is to ask for it first.

[SWITCH SPEAKER]

Removal

Now, what if you're met with hostility? The next step is Removal. This could mean removing the person from your camp with a temporary or permanent ban or removing the person who needs help. Reach out to your campmates for support and keep an eye on the person who needs help!

Not in your own camp or out there in Deep Playa?

Try the old Razzle Dazzle.

Grab the nearest passerby. Ask the Suspicious Person their name and give the classic line to the second burner....”Have you met (Suspicious Person’s Name)

Find out where Suspicious Person camps. Pepper them both with questions. Pull more people in the same way and when you get a chance, send somebody to find a radio.

By stopping this Suspicious Person for a few moments, you short circuit a lot of bad intentions.

Incident Reporting

Documentation through Incident Reporting is so important.

The idea in all these interventions is to be as socially graceful as possible. But don't worry about doing things perfectly. Just act! A creative way one of our Consent Ambassadors identified a person was by practicing consent to take a picture with the Suspicious Person. If you've got their name, camp, and picture, you can now report this to one of their Camp Leads. When we practice this, we are now holding people accountable especially if there are multiple incidents with the same Suspicious Person.

Hopefully, you will never encounter a suspicious scenario but if you do—what's the magic phrase?

[SWITCH SPEAKER]

“Hey! How's it going?”

Keep the same friendly attitude so they match the energy that you bring to the table. You want to get their information and photo so you can report their behavior to their camp. We're holding our community accountable for crossing verbalized boundaries. NO ONE is asking to be grabbed, touched, raped, or assaulted because of what they are wearing, or not wearing. They are only asking to be touched---if they literally ask to be touched! We're asking camps to have the discourse on how YOUR CAMP is going to solve the problems your camp members have brought to the table. We are smarter as a group and BED are looking for the solutions in which your camp has held your camp members accountable. We are the Bureau of Erotic DISCOURSE! Not counselors, not Emergency Services (but you should know where the closest one to your camp is) but concerned individuals encouraging you to have the conversation about consent.

Silence is Not Consent— “Hell, Yes” is

Let’s review-- “Sexy” clothing is not consent! And nudity is not consent! What do these things have in common?

Silence.

[Give a LONG pause and look at the crowd]

In both cases, no words have been spoken to indicate a “Hell, yes!” The complete opposite of a “Hell, yes!”, ... is silence. When you’re with someone or trying to get with someone, always be reading their utterly silent non-verbal cues. Look for frozen stillness, silently pulling away, feet and body turned away from yours, arms crossed across the chest. An enthusiastic yes is rarely completely silent.

Silence could mean the person you’re with doesn’t want to be there but they can’t verbalize their discomfort for various reasons. So if they can’t say Hell, Yes, take that to mean Hell, No.

What is Hell, Yes?

Ok. Now that we’ve covered what *isn’t* a *Hell, Yes!*, let’s get into what is!

A “Hell Yes!” Is an unmistakable signal that somebody wants your touch. The best “Hell, Yes!” is the verbal “Hell Yes!” The verbal “Hell Yes!” is the only “Hell Yes!” that can’t be mistaken for anything else. Even better, a verbal “Hell Yes!” is just sexy as fuck!

[SWITCH SPEAKER]

The Kissing Game

Ok! We're going to play a game! This game involves giving or receiving a peck on the lips or cheek from your partner.

The point of this game is to get comfortable giving and receiving nos. Thank the person for their no. Make sure to say no to your partner at least once. As always, we only want you to do things that you enthusiastically consent to; so only participate if it feels good to you. Please stay seated if you don't consent to play this game. Everyone else...STAND UP!

I'm going to count everyone off so remember your number.

1,2,1,2,.....

Does anyone not have a number?. . Okay, everyone ready?!

NOW PAIR UP! Ones! Find someone who's assigned a 2. Twos! Find someone who's assigned a 1. This is called The Kissing Game.

Take a second and tell your partner if you prefer a peck on the cheek or the lips or if both are fine for you. If you would like more than a peck, feel free to tell your partner so! — Go back and forth offering different types of interaction. **Use your no**, practice receiving a no with a relaxed easy face, and simply, say thank you. The fact that they said no to you means they trust you enough to tell you.

Okay! Are we ready??

Person One--You are The Kisser. You're going to ask to kiss Person Two in your own words-

Person Two, you are The Kisee. You can kiss them or decline, the choice is yours.

Ready? Go!

[Crowd Participates]

Great! Now switch!

[Allow Switch]

Person Two--You are now The Kisser. You're going to ask to kiss Person Two in your own words-

Person One, you are The Kissee. You can kiss them or decline, the choice is now yours.

[Crowd Participates]

Everybody stop! Now try the exercise by asking for a hug!

[Crowd Participates]

Thanks, everybody. Have a seat! Thank you for playing along!

[Allow people to sit]

[SWITCH SPEAKER]

Keep Using Your Words

Using your words shouldn't end at the first kiss stage. Keep using them the further along you get. A good partner is constantly alert to body language, breathing, and other non-verbal cues. Is the person actively participating? Are they trying to get closer to you or squirming away? Still hot and heavy? ...Yeah? Hell, Yes!

Keep things flowing by checking in verbally too. The phrases you can try are...

"Fuck, I love how you...."

“I like it when you...”

“What do you like?”

Look, it doesn't have to be creative. Some people are really good at talking during sex. Some of us . . . not so much. The point is to just ask a question to make sure your partner is still into it and to find out more about what they like.

And, the great thing about it? Checking in verbally takes the sex up to a higher level!

Communication is the best lubrication!

[SWITCH SPEAKER]

Practice using your words

At any burn, large or small, you're going to find multiple places where you're expected to say what you want like, whether it cuddle puddles, orgy domes, camps that will wash your hair for you, massage daisy chains, kink camps - - in all these places it's perfectly normal and expected that participants will say what they want and others will respect that.

So go forth and practice using your words! Explore this incredible world, make new friends to explore it with, and bring old friends along at the same time.

[SWITCH SPEAKER]

In Conclusion

And relax, take your time to connect with your fellow burners. Communicate your wants and desires to others and respect your fellow burners' right to say yes or no. Choose your intoxicants wisely, choose your actions wisely as well. Practice consent in everything you do. Be mindful of your impact on your community. Keep your integrity intact and look out for your fellow burners through Consent Enforcement with the "Hey!" How's it going?", The Teachable Moment, and exercising Removal. Keep our community accountable through Incident Reporting with as much information as possible so we all are free to dress to express ourselves. You are part of this joyous cacophony, this ebb and flow of life. We are glad you're here with us in BED.

Thank you all so much for spending this time with us! It's been an honor to speak here today! We hope some of the things we shared with you today enrich your life and help you gain maximum enjoyment out of it!

And remember, what's the magic phrase?

[SWITCH SPEAKER]

"Hey! How's it going?"

Thank you for allowing us to serve you and we would like to practice asking you for consent by taking a picture with us and your Safe Camp! We encourage you to do your own BED Talk next year and you can access our training at beducator.teachable.com. If you like to talk more about consent after the picture, please hang back and we'll guide your camp through some prompting questions to begin your own discourse.

Is it okay to take your picture? Can I get a "Hell, yes?!"

Alright come over here by me and please sit out if you do not want to be in the photo.

[Ask if we can use it for our BED website. A single "No" means we cannot]

[END TALK]

[START CAMP DISCOURSE ON NEXT PAGE]

[Let people leave after the picture if they want to. Gather up the remaining and guide them through the questions below. Allow yourself to leave it if the camp wants to talk longer than you're willing to stay and politely say your good-byes.]

Prompting questions for the camp to answer:

- **Why is consent important?**
- **What is consent?**
- **Where do we practice consent?**
- **When can our camp use Consent Ambassadors? (Consent Ambassadors execute Consent Enforcement: “Hey! How’s it going?”, The Teachable Moment, and Removal)**
- **Who can act as a Consent Ambassador?**
- **Who should review incident reports in our camp?**