

**I. Introduction**

**Presenter 1**

Hey there, you beautiful Burners! I'm \_\_\_\_\_, your friendly neighborhood BED volunteer, and this wonderful creature right here is my partner in BED....

**Presenter 2**

\_\_\_\_\_.! And, yep, you heard that right, we're from B.E.D, but not the kind you're thinking about. It's short for the Bureau of *Erotic* Discourse!

**Presenter 1**

Don't worry, it's not as scandalous as it sounds, though we do like to keep things interesting. B.E.D. is Burning Man's volunteer consent education group under Emergency Services.

**Presenter 2**

That's right! Our job doesn't involve fluffy pillows or satin sheets. Nope, we're here to spread the message of enthusiastic consent! Why? Because we establish trust amongst burners in our culture and get to the bottom of rumors from realities.

**Presenter 1**

And time is of the essence! We believe in actively creating a culture of safety and respect, where every person's boundaries are acknowledged and honored.

**Presenter 2**

And to do that, we write content for Burning Man's survival guide, posters for your... Porta Potties, and give online training to camps to make *your* camp a safer space.

**Presenter 1**

No pillows, but plenty of support! We want everyone here to feel safe and able to enjoy the wild, whimsical wonder that is Burning Man.

**Presenter 2**

And it all starts with open and honest communication. So remember folks, when it comes to consent, it's all about that **enthusiastic** 'Hell Yes!'

**Presenter 1/Presenter 2**

That's right! [ 🎵 **IN SONG** 🎵 ] If it's not a 'Hell yes!' it's a 'No!!' [**Both presenters Clap Clap**] So stay tuned, we're here to dive deep into the human complexities of consent and how we all can play our part in making Burning Man an even more explorative experience!"

**II. The Previous Approach**

**Presenter 2**

So, I'm sure you've seen us around, chatting up a storm at various camps, talking consent and creating safe spaces... And this has always been done by the volunteers of BED campers - like us! We go through a BED training and then deliver a BED Talk to you like we are doing right now.

**Presenter 1**

A mere 50 of us have attempted to outreach 1700 amazing camps at Burning Man. The numbers, quite frankly, were against us. Your individual camp flavor deserves attention to its own flare by the people you stake your tent next to. And so, an idea emerged. What if every camp could have their own beacon of consent education, their own camp BEDucator?

**Presenter 2**

Hell yes! And thus was born the playa wide BEDucator Program!

### III. Introducing the BEDucator Program

#### Presenter 1

So, who's heard of the BEDucator Program? [ RAISE YOUR HAND IN ENCOURAGEMENT]

#### Presenter 2

Probably not many of us as we have just opened up our BED training online to all of the big burn this year! This allows one member of your camp to step up into a leadership position as your camp's BEDucator to take our BED training and get your camp talking about your camp's boundaries by creating your unique Consent Policy. Our very recent launch has already had over 200 sign-ups this year with this very new unleashing. That's incredible!

#### Presenter 1

Every single one of us BED speakers are volunteers, so we're extending the invite for you to volunteer to be your camp's BEDucator by creating your own unique Consent Policy and Problem Resolution Process among your very own campmates.

#### Presenter 2

You know your campmates better than the rest of Burning Man and have a responsibility to look out for each other and focus on bringing home more positive experiences than negative ones. It's doing your part of upholding all 11 principles of our culture at large. In BED, we believe Enthusiastic Consent IS the 11th Principle of Burning Man. That's what the BEDucator Program empowers.

### IV. The Three-Step Consent Enforcement Policy

**Presenter 1**

That's right! So, the invitation is out there. Come by BED Camp at 6:15 and E to learn more about how you can create your camp's tailored consent policy and handle those 'oh no you didn't' situations.

So, what are some of the things that are inside the BEDucator Program? The Three-Step Consent Enforcement Policy. This, my friends, is your toolbox for a safer and more caring Burning Man. We managed to take our complex human intricacies and broke them down into a flexible three-step process for when you find yourself needing a fallback when engaging with other burners.

**Presenter 2**

Let's dive right into it. Step one of the Consent Enforcement process is called the '**Hey, how's it going?**' This is your casual, friendly check-in also known as **bystander intervention**. Let's say, you witness someone taking pictures of a nude campmate. You go up to them and say, '**Hey, how's it going?**' We do this in an unassuming, relaxed and respectful way to see if the pictures were warranted, and you just didn't know this yourself.

**Presenter 1**

This bystander intervention method delivers a tone that *de-escalates* a potential situation. You may discover that the nude campmate is the partner of the photographer and those photos were something that they had specifically asked for. Good thing we didn't come in huffing and puffing making ourselves look like an asshole, because you know what they say about assumptions.

**Presenter 2**

It makes an ass out of you and me! But... What if the naked playa hottie had no knowledge of the camera? That's where step two comes into play and what we call this the '**Teachable Moment**.' The Teachable Moment is when we can verbalize our values and principles in a respectful and understanding manner. It's not about policing, it's about sharing knowledge, and spreading awareness. It's the verbal line in the sand that we can deliver ourselves, or help another burner out if they look like they're having trouble speaking up for themselves.

**Presenter 1**

The whole goal of the Teachable Moment is an opportunity for **changed behavior**. It's most ideal for our photographer in this example to say *"Oh! I'm so sorry I was just trying to capture the moment and had heard 'anything goes' at Burning Man. Thank you for the direction - it's my first burn."* Photos of people at burn could be devastating back in the default world. Might we strongly suggest ensuring those photos be deleted to show they really learned. And BAM! A successful Teachable Moment!

**Presenter 2**

....And thennnn you see that same photographer taking photos of the nude campmate again. If the boundary has been laid out and they continue to cross the line that's where we go into Step three, **'Removal'**. Now this isn't just kicking someone out, it can be as simple as asking someone to take a break or even a temporary or permanent suspension, as determined by camp leads, in severe cases. Other resources you have here on playa are the rangers roaming around in their khakis for situations beyond our photographer friend that could get out of hand. The rangers are volunteers to help and are not law enforcement.

**Presenter 1**

The rangers are just like you and me with the training to assist with escalations. They can be found at 5:45 and Esplanade and the 9 o' clock and 3 o' clock plazas on C street near Zendo. Executing removal could also mean pulling in burners passing by and asking them to get a ranger. Removal should **never** be done by yourself as you **always** want to ensure your own safety. Sometimes it means removing the burner who needs help, and taking you to a safe space. If you feel like you are not the **Capable Individual**, pull in more burners and send one to get a ranger to assist you.

**Presenter 2**

BED believes in holding standards to all 11 of our principles, including Enthusiastic Consent, so we can be safe enough to try new things, to be naked, and change our minds when things become too overwhelming. It takes a village and please know that in the BEDucator Program we have camps **pre-determine** who those capable individuals are in your camp to make the call to remove someone in tough situations. We encourage everyone to begin having this communication in their camps so you're better prepared for if, and when, shit goes wrong.

**Presenter 1**

And that's the essence of our three-step Consent Enforcement process: it's starting a conversation, sharing our desires and boundaries, and ensuring a safe experience. We believe that together, we can build a safer and more respectful Burning Man experience for every burner.

**V. Getting the verbal "Hell Yes!"**

**Presenter 2**

Now, this isn't just about rules. This is about creating a culture where we're looking out for each other. That's where the 'Hey, how's it going?' and the Teachable Moment approach comes in. It's about checking in, about caring about others and first and foremost, about yourself.

Alright, enough about the process. Who here is ready to talk about sex??

**[GAIN AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION]**

**Presenter 1**

The Teachable Moment isn't just about being reactive. It's about telling that spicy someone you're attracted to that you want them and getting confirmation that they want you, too! In BED, we believe the best hell yes is a verbal hell yes. The verbal "Hell Yes" is the only hell yes that lets you know with certainty that someone wants your touch.

**Presenter 2**

Let's say you're at an event - a sound camp on Esplanade. The person next to you is irresistibly hot.

**[PRESENTER 1 MOVES FLIRTATIIOUSLY TO PRESENTER 2]**

**[PRESENTER 2 MAKES FLIRTATIOUS GESTURES EXAGGERATED & LAUGHS LEANING TOWARDS PRESENTER 1]**

You've been flirting and talking. They laugh at your jokes. They give long answers to your questions and ask questions in return. Their body language says they are all in. Toes are pointed towards you, body is leaning your way. All systems are a go!

You think they want you to kiss them. You don't whip out the legal pad and demand a contract. But you certainly don't just slobber all over their face hoping they are into it.

**[ PRESENTER 2 DEMONSTRATES AN AWKWARD, FORCEFUL KISS ]**

**Presenter 1**

No! Let's try that again!

**[ BOTH PRESENTERS GET CLOSE AND ACT FLIRTATIIOUSLY AGAIN ]**

**Presenter 2**

You use your words and your body language. You lock eyes, you slowly lean in. Your whole body is an invitation to kiss and you pause...

**[ BOTH PRESENTERS STARE INTO EACH OTHERS EYES ]**

**Presenter 2**

one heartbeat... two heartbeats... I want to kiss you. May I?

**Presenter 1**

Hell, Yes!

**[BOTH PRESENTERS FLOW INTO EACH OTHER'S ARMS FOR THE KISS]**

**Presenter 1**

Getting verbal consent is a rock star move. It takes approximately ten seconds of self control and it makes both people feel all tingly inside. Get that verbal "Hell, Yes!" and keep getting them as you frolic about together! Refuse to push yourself onto the other person in hopes that they won't say no. That way is for weenies! Demand full, enthusiastic participation instead.



**VI. The Kissing Game [CUT IF NEEDING TO SAVE TIME]**

**Presenter 2**

Alright, are you ready to practice this yourself?? Let's play a game! We're going to ask for audience participation! This game involves giving and/or getting a peck on the lips or the cheek from your partner. If this level of contact isn't right for you, this is your opportunity to practice the "Hey! How's It Going?" on the most important person in the crowd....YOU!

**Presenter 1**

This is called The Kissing Game! If your "Hey! How's It Going?" to your own body doesn't scream HELL YES about participating, then feel free to stay seated. Again, give yourself a "Hey! How's it going, me? Do I want to participate in this?" and if you're feeling an enthusiastic YES in your body go ahead and stand up for me. Are we ready?

**Presenter 2**

Participants! Please take a stand now! I'm going to count you off and group you into Group 1 and Group 2. Ready?

**[ POINT TO STANDING PARTICIPANTS AND NUMBER THE OFF 1, 2, 1, 2... OUT LOUD ]**

Does everyone have a number? Okay, now pair up! 1s on this side and 2s on this side over here to form a pair! We're going to begin the Kissing Game!

**Presenter 1**

Alright! We're going to take a second and negotiate what kind of kiss you prefer. Some options to offer could be blowing a kiss, a Beverly Hills style air kiss, a dramatic Hollywood kiss, a kiss on the cheek or hand. If you would like more than just a peck, feel free to tell your partner so!

**Presenter 2**

Person One! You are the Kisser. You're going to ask your partner, "Hey! How's it going?" and then ask for the kind of kiss you desire. Ask this in your own words, and wait for your partner's response.

**Presenter 1**

Person Two, you are the Kissee. You can participate in the kiss or decline, it's your choice. Ask clarifying questions like, "Would you like my hands on your shoulders, or waist, or would you not like to be touched during the kiss?" The point of this is consent for a kiss is not consent to touch or do other things.

Are we ready? Give your partner a "Hey! How's it going!" and ask for that kiss! Start!

**Presenter 2 [AFTER THEY'VE PLAYED FOR A BIT]**

Now switch!

Person Two! You are the Kisser! Person Two, ask "Hey! How's it going?" and for your desired kiss! Person 1! Ask your clarifying questions! Go!

**VII. Desires and Boundaries Game [CUT IF NEEDING TO SAVE TIME]**

**Presenter 1**

Great job everybody! This is just a short introduction on asking for potentially physical touch. We have one last game for you. This game is called Desires and Boundaries. We're going to practice using our words to communicate our desires, and communicate our boundaries.

**Presenter 2**

That's right! Person 1! Think about an experience you're **really** looking forward to this year at Burning Man, and then tell your partner what that is. When you're done talking about why this experience screams HELL YES down to your bones to your partner, you're then going to invite them to go on this experience with you.

**Presenter 1**

Sounds sizzling. Okay, Person 2! Your job is simple. You are just going to decline.

**Present 2**

Alright, Person 1 do you have that desire ready for your partner? Tell them what it is! Go ahead and start!

**Presenter 1**

Alright, Person 2, have we declined the invitation, yet? It's Person 2's turn to talk about something they're really looking forward to this burn and invite Person 1 along for the experience. Person 1! You are going to simply decline. Begin!

**Presenter 2**

Thank you guys so much for participating in our little exercise; you can have a seat.

***[ GIVE THEM A MOMENT TO SIT ]***

**Presenter 2**

This is communicating our desires and boundaries as we get ready to embrace or sit out on experiences the playa has to offer. For the participants, how did you feel when you told your partner "no"?

**Presenter 1**

***[ PAUSE TO LET THEM THINK. ACKNOWLEDGE ANY SHOUTOUTS AND MOVE ON ]***

Did any of you find you were readying an explanation on why you couldn't join them? What feelings did we experience when we heard "No"?

***[ PAUSE TO LET THEM THINK. ACKNOWLEDGE ANY SHOUTOUTS AND MOVE ON ]***

## VIII. No Is A Complete Sentence

### Presenter 2

"No." is a complete sentence. Embracing self-analysis when receiving "no"s allows us to cultivate a healthy mindset where we appreciate and respect others' autonomy, leading to more fulfilling connections and a deeper understanding of each other's boundaries. In BED, we look at receiving a "no" as a positive experience! We celebrate when someone understands themselves well enough to tell them "no" and applaud their strength to let us know their boundaries. Thank you for participating in the Kissing Game with us!

## IX. Keep Checking In

### Presenter 1

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? Yes? Then you're in for a good time!

### Presenter 2

Keep things flowing by checking in verbally. Some phrases to try are:

The classic, "You like that?" works or

### Presenter 1

"Is this feeling working for you?" Or let your partner know you're still into it with affirmative statements like...

### Presenter 2

Fuck, I love how you "insert naughty action. What do *you* like?"

## X. What is Consent and What Is It Not?

### Presenter 1

Whew.. Is it getting hot in here or is it just me? So, now that we've established the steps in the Consent Enforcement process, let's talk about the crucial piece of this puzzle - Consent itself. ...What is consent?

**[ PAUSE TO LET THEM THINK. ACKNOWLEDGE ANY SHOUTOUTS AND MOVE ON ]**

### Presenter 2 / Presenter 1

Consent is the voluntary, enthusiastic agreement to another's proposition. It's not a lukewarm 'maybe', not a hesitant 'I guess', it's a resounding 'Hell Yes!'. Consent is given freely, consciously, and can be withdrawn at any time. [ 🎵 **IN SONG** 🎵 ] If it's not a "Hell Yes!" it's a "No!" **[ BOTH PARTNERS CLAP CLAP ]**

### Presenter 1

Now, let's get real about sex and intoxicants. The bottom line here, you cannot give or receive consent if you or the other person is intoxicated, period. It's not only dangerous, but it's also legally and morally wrong. If someone is too drunk to drive, they're too drunk to consent. Just wait to make a sober decision when engaging in sexual interactions for both party's sake. And if you do have sex with someone who is too intoxicated to consent, there's a word for that and it's called rape.

### Presenter 2

And this isn't just about alcohol or drugs. People can be 'intoxicated' by the overwhelming environment of the festival too. That's why regular check-ins are so important.

**Presenter 1**

Right, we've all heard of the 'fight or flight' response to stress, but let's talk about the lesser-known reaction: 'freeze.' It's a common response, especially in overwhelming situations or when experiencing fear or distress. And that's why it's so important to remember that silence does not equate to consent. And this should go without saying, but sleeping is not consent.

**Presenter 2**

Absolutely. Consent is continuous, conscious, informed, and enthusiastic. Let's be mindful of the risks including informing our potential partners about STIs, check in with each other regularly, and create a culture where everyone feels safe and respected. We want to give our playa hottie the *choice* about what they choose to engage in and be fully capable and informed of any risks in our adult engagements that require adult conversations. Remember, consent can be retracted at any time! You're allowed to say stop! It doesn't matter how far you've gone. A community that values consent, is a community that values each other.

**Presenter 1**

Here's a little known fact, consent isn't just about sex. It's a voluntary agreement to another's proposition. Some people HATE hugs, so what's the best way to find that out? We ASK! How do we know if someone wants alcohol in their drink? We ASK! How do we know someone doesn't eat meat? We ASK! How do we get that beautiful, glorious, enthusiastic "HELL YES"?

**VI. Close**

**Presenter 2**

We ASK! Come visit us at our camp to learn more about the BEDucator Program and how your camp can participate in the BEDucator Program so your camp can be a safe container at Burning Man. We would love to help empower your camp members to become BEDucated. Together, we can ensure everyone at Burning Man is equipped to nurture a culture of respect and consent.

**Presenter 1**

That said, this journey starts with ourselves. It's about being safe enough to push our own boundaries knowing we can retreat when things become too much, while having that same respect for others. Understanding consent is about creating a comfortable space for communication, for asking questions, for saying 'yes', and importantly, for saying 'no'.

**Presenter 2**

We've covered a lot of ground today and thank you all for being such a fantastic audience. If you have any further questions, or if you want to learn more about the BEDucator Program, or if you simply want to continue the conversation on consent, please don't hesitate to visit our camp at 6:15 & E.

**Presenter 1**

We're really excited that you've joined us in this crucial conversation. If your camp doesn't have a consent policy in place, we invite you to adopt BED's Consent Policy and model our Problem/Resolution Process. We strongly believe that understanding and practicing consent is not just about avoiding harm—it's about creating a space where everyone can express themselves and engage with each other safely.

**Presenter 2**

Thank you wonderful folks! Let's all work together to make Burning Man, and indeed, all gatherings, safer, more respectful and more inclusive. You have the right to say "HELL YES", "NO", or "STOP" at any time, without providing any justification or feeling any guilt. You have the right to change your mind, even if you said 'yes' before. Consent is ongoing, and it is critical in all of our interactions. Thank you for getting in BED with us and enjoy the rest of your Burn! We're all in this together, and REMEMBER...

**Both Presenters Together**

**[ 🎵 IN SONG 🎵 ] If it's not a "Hell Yes!" it's a "No!" [ BOTH PARTNERS CLAP CLAP, AND THEN APPLAUSE CLAP FOR EXIT ] Thank you everybody!**