



THIS IS WHY WE VOLUNTEER



Kiwanis Youth Protection Guidelines Overview and Common Questions

*Capital District of Kiwanis -- Mid-Year Conference
February 29, 2020*



Youth Protection Matters

Through Kiwanis Youth Programs, Kiwanis serves more than 335,000 youth each year!

- Globally, 1 in 4 youth will suffer abuse or maltreatment (*World Health Organization*)
 - 85% of victims never report their abuse



Youth Protection Matters

- Abuse is usually at the hands of a known acquaintance or family member, **NOT** strangers
 - More than 90% of abusers are people children know, love and trust

Youth Protection Guidelines



Annual Education Requirement

- Clubs must educate members annually on the Youth Protection Guidelines
- Great resources exist online to complete this! Visit: www.kiwanis.org/youthprotection
- Once completed, the club secretary must indicate completion in the *Kiwanis Connect* reporting system

Youth Protection Guidelines



Annual Education Requirement

- The Capital District aims to achieve 100% completion before ICON 2020
- As of 12/31/2019, only 37 of 143 clubs have completed the requirement (26%)
- If you need assistance, ask me for help!



Youth Protection Guidelines

Background Checks

- **ALL** Kiwanis members who work with youth in our youth clubs and programs as a Kiwanis Advisor must have a clear criminal background check completed by Safe Hiring Solutions and verified by Kiwanis International
- Background checks are good for two years



Youth Protection Guidelines

Background Checks

Some common issues to consider:

- Does each SLP club have a Kiwanis Advisor named in Kiwanis Connect?
- Is someone in your club keeping track of when background checks expire?



Youth Protection Guidelines

Background Checks

- Does your club have a plan on how to pay for background checks?
- If you have named a Kiwanis Advisor and he/she is not background checked, do you know how to initiate a check?



Youth Protection Guidelines

Chaperones and Overnight Events

- Chaperones must be 21 years old or older
- Each overnight Kiwanis sponsored youth event must have a minimum **1 chaperone per 10 students**.
Adult chaperones must include one adult male for each 10 youth males or part of 10 youth males **AND** one adult female for each 10 youth females or part of 10 youth females.



Youth Protection Guidelines

Chaperones and Overnight Events

- Starting in Summer 2020, all chaperones for an overnight event sponsored by Kiwanis will need to have an official Kiwanis background check in order to attend and participate
- This will include Faculty Advisors to SLP clubs who are currently exempt from the Kiwanis background check process



Youth Protection Guidelines

Praesidium Armatus Online Training

- In February 2020, all Kiwanis Advisors received login information for a series of online youth protection training modules in the Armatus system
- All Kiwanis Advisors are expected to take this training; in the future it will be required to complete in order to complete your background check



Youth Protection Guidelines

Transportation

- Practice the “Rule of Three” with three people in the car
 - This can be two adults and one student or multiple students



Youth Protection Guidelines

Transportation

- Advisable to have the students sit in the back seat/rows
- Always obtain approval from parents/guardian
- Follow local school/local law policy



Youth Protection Guidelines

Use of Social Media

- Whenever possible, connect with youth via a club page/account and not individual youth member accounts
- Do not initiate the following/friending on social media platforms
- Treat all social posts and interactions as public



Youth Protection Guidelines

Use of Social Media

- Refrain from posting photos of youth on your personal social media pages
- Avoid 1:1 emails and texts if possible
 - Follow the “Rule of 3” and include parents/guardians or another adult (advisor, YPM, or risk officer) if applicable



Policy In Practice

Reporting Guidelines

If a Kiwanian observes troubling behavior involving a youth at a Kiwanis event, or becomes aware of a situation that is illegal or potentially unsafe for a young person at a Kiwanis event, the Kiwanian must immediately:

- Contact the appropriate personnel on-site
- Provide notification to law enforcement personnel as appropriate



Policy In Practice

Reporting Guidelines

If the Kiwanian becomes aware of the troubling behavior **after** the event, they must:

- Contact leaders of the event.
- Provide notification to law enforcement personnel as appropriate.

All local, state, provincial and federal laws regarding reporting must be followed!



Policy In Practice

Scenario 1

Casey is a 20-year-old former Key Club District Governor and is now a Kiwanis member and wants to chaperone the DCON weekend. Casey turns 21 on the last day of DCON.

- Can Casey chaperone the DCON?
- What do you do?



Scenario 1 Solution

- No, Casey can not be an overnight chaperone for DCON
- Casey could be invited to assist with workshops or other pieces of the event to encourage participation and inclusion



Policy In Practice

Scenario 2

Pat is a new college grad and a former Key Club youth leader. Pat is a member of the local Kiwanis club and will be a Key Club advisor. Pat is also a communications/marketing professional. Pat is very enthusiastic about the new role. Pat "friends" the faculty and students in the club on Facebook. Pat posts photos of the first meeting on Facebook and Instagram and even creates a new Key Club filter for Snapchat.

- What do you do?



Scenario 2 Solution

It all depends!

- If Pat has the appropriate permissions/waivers (from the school and guardians) to post and is using the club's pages, this could be allowable
- If Pat is posting on their own pages, it is not okay!



Policy In Practice

Scenario 3

You have a big overnight trip with multiple Key Club chapters. In total, 35 students (19 females, 16 males) are staying overnight on this great trip. Three days before the trip, you learn that in the past year one of the students, Al, is now Alice and identifies as a female.

- What do you do?
- How does this work with rooming assignments and chaperones?



Scenario 3 Solution

434 - GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS AT EVENTS

When planning events, and especially those with overnight lodging, Kiwanis organizers should be inclusive and make reasonable accommodations for the unique needs of each student participant.

- A. If the standard situation for an overnight event is shared rooms by gender, students must be allowed to access housing consistent with their self-determined gender identity. However, a student shall be assigned a room by biological sex if the student, or parent, or legal guardian so requests. A student or parent or legal guardian may suggest an alternative sleeping arrangement, such as single-occupancy room, which should be honored whenever possible. However, students cannot be required to stay in single-occupancy accommodations nor should those arrangements be made without the consent of the student or parent or legal guardian.
- B. Roommate disagreements should be addressed and resolved with the best interests of all parties in mind. If a disagreement cannot be reconciled, no student should be forced to reside with another student.



Scenario 3 Solution

- C. All students must be allowed access to restroom facilities consistent with their self-determined gender identity.
- D. Event organizers should choose facilities that can be adapted to accommodate requests in accordance with these guidelines. If a facility is unwilling to accept these guidelines for any reason, a different location should be considered.
- E. Volunteers have an obligation to maintain student privacy and cannot disclose or require disclosure of a student's sexual orientation, transgender or gender nonconforming identity, biological sex, religion, disability, medical condition, or other personal information to anyone, including other students or their parents, without the consent of the student.



Policy In Practice

Scenario 4

You are a Kiwanis Advisor to a Key Club. You and the club's president and vice president are set to go on a 4-hour car trip across state to attend a training session and Key Club meeting. The night before the drive, the club president gets sick and cancels.

- What do you?



Scenario 4 Solution

- Find a 3rd person to keep in accordance with the “Rule of Three”
- If that is not possible, keep a log of a few key incidents/milestones or significant highlights of the trip and share it with the students, their parents, and other Kiwanians
- Call or e-mail with the parents of the students at various parts of the trip/day



Questions

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