



# Rotary Youth Protection Awareness And Your Club

Rotary District 5580



# How Do We Protect Youth?

Our Rotary District

has established Policies, Training

Programs and materials to educate

our clubs and their members on

strategies to protect the youth

we work with and who share our communities.

# How Do We Protect Youth?

## The D5580 Youth Protection Policy

Available on D5580 Website:

[https://clubrunner.blob.core.windows.net/00000050019/en-ca/files/sitepage/youth-protection/d5580-youth-protection-policy\\_adopted-2014/D5580-Youth-Protection-Policy\\_AUG2016.pdf](https://clubrunner.blob.core.windows.net/00000050019/en-ca/files/sitepage/youth-protection/d5580-youth-protection-policy_adopted-2014/D5580-Youth-Protection-Policy_AUG2016.pdf)

### District 5580 Youth Protection Policy & Youth Exchange Abuse and Harassment Prevention Policy

#### PREAMBLE

Rotary International is committed to protecting the safety and wellbeing of Youth and will not tolerate their abuse or harassment. All allegations of abuse or harassment will be taken seriously and must be handled within the following guidelines. **The safety and well-being of Youth should always be the first priority.**

Developing and implementing an effective Youth Protection Policy tangibly demonstrates a district's commitment to protecting Youth participating in the Rotary Youth Exchange program, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Interact and other engagement with Rotary clubs in our District.

#### District 5580 Youth Protection Policy

---

##### 1. Statement of Conduct for Working with Youth

District 5580 is committed to creating and maintaining a safe environment for all participants in Rotary activities. It is the duty of all Rotarians, Rotarians' spouses, partners, and any other volunteers to safeguard to the best of their ability the welfare of and to prevent the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of Youth.

##### 2. Preemption of Policy

This Youth Protection Policy has been adopted to include all programs in which Rotary International District 5580 or its member Clubs may be engaged in

# Statement of Conduct



Rotary International District 5580 is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all participants in Rotary activities.

# Statement of Conduct

It is the duty of all Rotarians, Rotarian's spouses, partners, and any other volunteers to **safeguard to the best of their ability**, the welfare of, and to prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse of children and young people with whom they come in contact.



# Our Policies

All Rotarians should be exposed to our District Youth Protection Policy and discuss the importance of youth protection



# Our Policies

All Clubs need to sign the Club Resolution every year.. New Presidents - get it done in July/August and get them to the District YPO

Resolution Agreeing to Abide by the District Youth Protection Policy

# Our Policies

## 1. Volunteer Certification and Training -

### Youth Volunteer Application and Background Check Form

“All volunteers in District 5580 with Significant Interaction with Youth must become Certified Volunteers and the Club Youth Protection Officer”





# Our Policies

**“Significant Interaction”** may include multiple occurrences over the course of time, situations where the Volunteer has the ability to influence the circumstances in which the Volunteer has the interaction, the location of the interaction or the duration of the interaction.

# Our Policies

Significant Interaction does not include

A. A one time meeting with Youth in a group setting with other Rotarians, adults or youths, such as distributing donated dictionaries to a classroom of students where the teacher or other Rotarians are present

# Our Policies

Significant Interaction does not include

**B.** Speaking at a Rotary youth event, where contact with Youth is limited



# Our Policies

Significant Interaction does not include

C. Participating in a meeting such as a Rotary Club meeting, where youth are also present.



# Who Needs to be a Certified Youth Volunteer?

1. District & Club Youth Protection Officers (note: Club President if no other identified)
2. RYLA & Youth Exchange Officers are trained via their orgs and accepted for Certification if applied for.
3. Model UN, Interact, Rotaract, and Speech Contest Volunteers
4. Rotarians and non-member volunteers who host youth for activities or outings or who drive youth to events or functions

# Our Policies

## Requirements for Certified Volunteers:

- A. Fill out and send the application to District YPO
  - a) Criminal Background Check by our District
- B. Meet D5580 Eligibility Requirements
- C. Agree to comply with D5580 Policies
- D. Complete Youth Protection Training Specified

# Our Policies

## 2. Criminal Background Checks



“A Certified Volunteer must be vetted through a Criminal Background Check” by our District

# Our Policies



Our district is committed to ensure that access to confidential information is restricted.



# Our Policies

<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/>

To take Youth Protection training go to [My.Scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org) and create an account. You'll receive an email notification with your account information, including a member ID/reference number.

Youth Protection  
Training –  
Online Boy  
Scout Training -  
Free, complete  
and send copy of  
certificate of  
completion

# Our Policies

## 3. Liability Insurance

District 5580 shall abide by any insurance requirements of Rotary International or Central States Rotary Youth Exchange Program, Inc.



# Our Policies

## 4. Allegation Reporting

All allegations of abuse or harassment will be taken seriously and must be handled in accordance with the District 5580 Abuse and Harassment Allegation Reporting Guidelines

# Our Policies

## 5. The Rule of Three =



## No One-On-One Contact

The “Rule of Three” requires that there must always be at least three people, of which at least one must be an Adult, present when interacting with Youth.



# Our Policies

## Exceptions to “Rule of 3”

- **Host family members may meet with Rotary Youth Exchange Students one-on-one.**
- **A Certified Volunteer may transport Youth Exchange Students to and from Rotary club meetings and other Rotary Youth Activities.**
- **Any Youth who makes an allegation under the YPP may raise the allegation to one Adult.**

# Our Policies

## Exceptions to “Rule of 3”

- **Meeting with a single youth in public locations (e.g. a coffee shop, restaurant or public library) is acceptable because of the presence of other members of the public, even if they are not directly acquainted with the youth or volunteer. Private meeting rooms are not acceptable. Transporting the youth to and from these locations may not be acceptable, depending on the situation.**

# **Our Policies**

## **6. Overnight Accommodations**

**If Rotary Youth Activities involve overnight stays, no Volunteer or Certified Volunteer, other than a family member or a Host Family, may occupy single accommodations with a Youth.**

# In the End, it's about Trust

- We must be able to trust that all Rotarians, and any other volunteers, will safeguard the welfare of youth and prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse of youth in our programs.
- We must instill trust in others by avoiding conduct that could be misunderstood and by clearly preventing situations where inappropriate actions might occur.



# What is Abuse or Harassment?

## **Abuse is:**

**Engaging in implicit or explicit sexual acts, or forcing or encouraging one to engage in implicit or explicit sexual acts, alone or with another person of any age, of the same sex or the opposite sex.**

# **What is Abuse or Harassment?**

**Abuse is:**

**Sexual abuse also includes non-touching offenses, such as indecent exposure or exposing one to sexual or pornographic material.**

# What is Abuse or Harassment?

## Harassment includes:

- **Sexual advances**
- **Requests for sexual favors or**
- **Verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.**

**In some cases, sexual harassment precedes sexual abuse and is used by sexual predators to desensitize or groom their victims.**

# What is Abuse or Harassment?

## Harassment can include:

- **Jokes,**
- **Written or spoken references to sexual conduct,**
- **Speaking about one's sex life in the presence of a young person or**
- **Comments about an individual's sexual activity, deficiencies, or prowess.**

# Recognizing the Signs



- Extreme activity or withdrawal
- Displays of low self-esteem
- Expressing general feelings of shame
- Fear, particularly toward certain individuals
- Declining school performance

# Recognizing the Signs

- Eating disorders
- Insomnia
- Irritability or angry outbursts
- Difficulty concentrating
- Avoidance of people, places, and things that might remind him or her of the incident
- Anxiety or depression

# Recognizing the Signs

- Nightmares
- Headache, gastrointestinal distress, or abdominal, back, or pelvic pain
- Suicidal thoughts
- Involvement with drugs or alcohol
- Aggressive/risk taking behavior or antisocial behavior

# Follow Through Procedures

- **Offer an independent, Non-Rotarian counselor to represent his or her interests.**
- **Work with the assigned Youth Officer to assist with notification of the student's parents or legal guardian.**
- **If the student is away from home, the student and parents should decide whether to stay in country or return home.**
- **Written authorization if remaining in country is required.**



# Follow Through Procedures

- **Police must be notified of travel arrangements if the student wishes to return home.**
- **Remove the alleged abuser from youth.**
- **Cooperate with the police or legal investigation.**
- **Keep the District Governor and the Youth Protection Officer informed.**
- **District 5580 will conduct an independent investigation to ensure that the situation has been addressed.**

# Addressing Issues in the Club

- **The first concern is the safety of the youth.**
- **Club members should not speculate or offer personal opinions that could hinder the investigation.**



# Addressing Issues in the Club

- **Comments about the alleged victims in support of the alleged abusers violates both the Statement of Conduct for Working with Youth and Rotary ideals.**
- **Comments against the alleged abuser could lead to slander or libel claims against the Rotarian or the club.**

# **For Clarification or Questions on D5580 Youth Protection Policy Contact:**

**PDG Thomas Riley – District Youth Protection Officer – USA**

[thomas.riley@ndsu.edu](mailto:thomas.riley@ndsu.edu) (701) 232-3113

**Peter Holt-Hidel – District Youth Protection Officer – Canada**

[pholthin@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:pholthin@lakeheadu.ca) (807) 627-1393

**Keith Brokke - District Governor 2021/2022**

**DGE Kay Biga**

**District 5580 website- Youth Protection page**