



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 6270

Implementation of Youth Protection Policy Of District 6270

Clubs need to be made aware that they must sign an annual acknowledgement of the fact that it is aware of the district youth protection policy and RI's commitment to protect the youth Rotary clubs come into contact with. All clubs are involved with youth one way or another, this is not simply youth exchange, that is but a small part of it.

Who

All Rotary club volunteers working with youth one on one or who might be in a one on one situation should complete a volunteer affidavit and have a criminal background check done annually.

Information /Form location

The district youth protection policy is available from the district website, all clubs should have at least one copy in their club records.

All Youth Protection information and forms are available on the District 6270 website.

Components of Certification

Criminal background checks are valid for only 12 months from the date they are done. Clubs are suggested to submit paperwork after the July 1 start of the new Rotary year.

Volunteer affidavits will be valid for at least 5 years or until there is a major change in the information it contains, such as address change, name change, job change, etc.

Training shall be required of all Rotary members working with youth at least once every three years. This training shall be offered at the spring and fall district meetings as well as by special arrangement with local clubs. This is the abuse and harassment prevention training required by RI.

Record Retention

All volunteer affidavits will be kept in the district files currently in the possession of PDG Tamie Koop and PDG Bob Hosch; no one else is authorized to keep these records. This has long been a concern of some club members, and rightfully so. They have been assured that these records are not available to anyone other than Tamie and Bob, or their successors.

District 6270 youth protection policy states that records are retained for 5 years. After 5 years, records may be purged, by shredding the documents.

Youth Activities and Rotary Youth Exchange

There are differences between youth activities protection training and Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) training. Shown here are Rotary Youth Activities and Rotary Youth Exchange policies.

Youth Activities

Rotary Club Certification

- District youth protection policy requires all Rotary clubs to be certified to be in compliance with District youth protection policies.
- Certification can be attained by at least one Rotarian of each Rotary club attending the RI abuse and harassment prevention training (aka Youth Protection) at least once every three (3) years. Sessions are offered at either District Spring Assembly or Fall Seminar sessions.
- Annually Rotary Clubs must submit the completed “Continuing support of the District Youth Protection Policy” form, which is given to the Rotary Club President Elect at PETS. This form is due July 1 to the District Office, this is an annual necessity, as current club officers cannot obligate future club officers.
- Individual Volunteer Affidavits are required for all Rotarians who work with youth in any capacity that puts the volunteer in contact one on one with youth.
- Completed and submitted volunteer affidavits should be valid for up to five (5) years, or until a major change occurs (i.e.) change of address, name, phone number, etc.
- Once volunteer affidavits are on file in the District, then a Rotary club can annually send a listing of all Rotarians for background record check along with the appropriate fee.
- All background record checks are valid for up to 1 year (July 1- June 30).
- The district youth protection committee members complete background record checks. The district cannot provide copies of background checks to anyone, the same holds true for other organizations we each must run our own (privacy issue).

Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE)

Host families -- all adult members of the household must have a background record check completed prior to the placement of any RYE student within the home. This includes any adults with access to the host family home. This means anyone with a key or other device that allows access to the home. Remember visiting adults (i.e.) grand parents if they are staying in the home while the student is present. This is as required by the U S Department of State regulations governing exchange programs.

Rotary Youth Exchange procedure for host families must be as follows:

- Family completes an application.
- Club checks the references and does an in-home inspection, documenting both.
- Club submits application to district RYE chair for background record checks.
- Upon completion for background record check, applying family will be notified as approved to be a host student family.

Under NO circumstance should any exchange student be placed in an unapproved home.

All Rotarians and members of a hosting club youth exchange committee must submit a volunteer affidavit for a background record check.

The District Youth Exchange Committee will determine what training in addition to the above should be required of the club youth exchange officers. This additional training will be conducted at a designated date and time, outside of the district fall or spring meetings.

BH/TK/Youth Protection Policy/August 2011
Approved August 23, 2011

Youth Protection Recommendations to the executive committee 8/23/11

This will replace the implementation form that is currently on the website and update it at the same time. Also replaces is the youth protection committee update and Rotary club volunteer behavior expectations.