

# **Rotary District 6420 Youth Protection Policy**

February 2025

**Note: This policy is consistent with Rotary International's *Youth Protection Guide* and applies to District 6420 activities that involve youth (as defined herein) except for Rotary Youth Exchange and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) which have their own set of youth protection measures.**

## **1. Statement of Conduct for Working With Youth**

District 6420 strives to create and maintain a safe environment for all youth who participate in Rotary service projects or any other Rotary activity. To the best of their ability, Rotarians and other volunteers must safeguard the children and young people they come into contact with and protect them from physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

## **2. Applicability**

This policy applies to Rotarians and other volunteers involved with Rotary youth activities who are in direct contact with youth under the age of 18, whether supervised or unsupervised, in the following situations:

- Where one-on-one interaction is occurring between the youth and adult;
- When transporting youth in a one-on-one circumstance;
- In a group setting where individual interaction is possible;
- During youth meetings in which the adult is in a leadership or liaison capacity;
- When the host organization or facility requires youth protection measures; and
- During other situations as determined by the Club.

## **3. Club Compliance**

District 6420 monitors Clubs conducting Rotary youth activities and encourages compliance with the youth protection measures set forth in this policy.

## **4. Volunteer Selection and Screening**

Rotary International and District 6420 do not tolerate any form of abuse or harassment. Rotary Code of Policies 2.120 requires that a Club must terminate the membership of any individual who admits to, is convicted of, or is otherwise known to have engaged in sexual abuse or harassment of youth or youth program participants. No person who has admitted to, been convicted of, or otherwise been known to have engaged in sexual abuse or sexual harassment shall be permitted to volunteer in Rotary youth activities.

Clubs conducting Rotary youth activities shall implement the following selection and screening procedures for all Rotarians and other volunteers who might be involved in any of the situations described in Part 2:

1. Interview applicants. Explore their background and experience working with youth. Ascertain that they have not admitted to, been convicted of, or are otherwise known to have engaged in sexual abuse or harassment of youth.
2. Confirm their identity via review of a driver's license or other official form of photo identification such as a military ID card or a passport.
3. Complete an annual criminal background check (paid for by District 6420).

### **Background check process:**

1. Based on review of the official photo identification, submit the applicant's full name (first name, middle name, and last name including generational designation such as Jr., Sr., I, II III, IV, etc.), date of birth, and email address to the District 6420 Background Check Coordinator.
2. The background check company (InCheck) will send the youth program volunteer applicant an automated email that provides easy to understand instructions for them to follow.
3. Once the background check is completed, the District 6420 Background Check Coordinator will notify the Club President of the outcome.

### **5. Training**

District 6420 makes training available to all Rotarians and other volunteers on the District's Youth Protection Policy and youth protection measures. The Club President shall review this District 6420 Youth Protection Policy and acknowledge receipt of the policy and agreement to abide by it **by signing the last page and emailing it to the District Governor and Youth Protection Officer**. This policy will be reviewed at the President Elect Training Seminar (PETS) or via email for President Elects prior to their Presidential year on July 1st.

The Club President and other Rotarians and other volunteers involved with Rotary youth activities who might be involved in any of the situations described in Part 2 also shall do the following:

1. Review Rotary International's *Youth Protection Guide* available at <https://my.rotary.org/en/learning-reference/learn-topic/youth-protection>. A copy of this document will be provided at PETS to all Club President-Elects or by email.
2. **Complete Rotary International's *Protecting Youth Program Participants* online course.** This course can be found by signing into My Rotary, going to "Knowledge & Resources" at the top and then clicking on "Learning Center", clicking on "Club Leadership", and then selecting the "*Protecting Youth Program Participants*" course. Upon completion of the course, the Club President should **email a copy of the certificate documenting attendance in the course to the District Governor and Youth Protection Officer**. All others should provide a copy of the certificate to the Club President. Note that non-Rotarian volunteers may create an account on My Rotary to gain access to the Learning Center.

### **6. Responding to Allegations**

District 6420 takes all allegations of abuse or harassment seriously and handles them in accordance with Rotary International's *Youth Protection Guide*. While Rotarians are not responsible for fact finding or investigation, the District cooperates with all law enforcement agencies, child protective services, and legal investigations. Should an allegation of abuse or harassment be brought to the attention of a Rotarian, the following steps should be followed:

1. Ensure that the young person is in a safe environment.
2. Contact local law enforcement.
3. Report your concern to Rotary International within 72 hours by emailing [youthprotection@rotary.org](mailto:youthprotection@rotary.org) or calling 866-976-8279 between 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM.
4. Notify the District 6420 Youth Protection Officer within 72 hours.

## **7. Travel by Youth**

Travel for Rotary youth activities outside of the youth's local community must comply with Rotary International and District 6420 youth protection policies. For all youth travel sponsored or provided by District 6420 or its Clubs, before departure, the sponsoring Club shall:

- Give parents, legal guardians, or host parents details about the travel, including locations, accommodations, itineraries, and the organizer's contact information.
- Obtain written permission from the parents, legal guardians, or host parents for all youth program participants.

## **8. Resources for Club Presidents and District 6420 Rotary Clubs**

**Youth Protection Officer.** District 6420 has appointed a Youth Protection Officer to advise it and its Clubs on abuse and harassment prevention and to help manage risks and any crises that affect the safety of youth.

***2025-2026 Youth Protection Officer***

Ginger Thompson

Loves Park Rotary Club

[ginger.thompson@harlem122.org](mailto:ginger.thompson@harlem122.org)

815-703-5810

**District 6420 Background Check Coordinator.** District 6420 has appointed a Background Check Coordinator to manage the background check process.

***2025-2026 Background Check Coordinator***

Gary Francque

Moline Rotary Club

[garyfrancque@gmail.com](mailto:garyfrancque@gmail.com)

309-207-0913

***2025-2026 District Governor***

Melissa McCormick

Rockton-Roscoe Rotary Club

[melissa@mccormick.com](mailto:melissa@mccormick.com)

815-289-5823

*(Please see back page for required signatures.)*

## District 6420 Youth Protection Policy

On behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_ Rotary Club, I acknowledge receipt of the District 6420 Youth Protection Policy and agree to abide by all aspects of it.

\_\_\_\_\_  
2025-2026 Club President's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
2025-2026 Club President's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

***This signed contract AND your Protecting Youth Participants Certificate from #5 should be emailed prior to your Presidency year which begins July 1st, 2025.***

**Send signed contract to BOTH:**

Ginger Thompson-	District Youth Protection Officer	<a href="mailto:ginger.thompson@harlem122.org">ginger.thompson@harlem122.org</a>
Melissa McCormick-	District Governor 2025-2026	<a href="mailto:melissa@melissa-mccormick.com">melissa@melissa-mccormick.com</a>