YOUTH PROTECTION POLICIES & RESOURCES
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NORMS FOR DISCUSSION

Take a break if you need to

Respect confidentiality

Contact us via e-mail

youthprotection@rotary.org
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PUBLICATIONS, COURSES, & RESOURCES
ROTARY YOUTH PROTECTION GUIDE
• Youth Exchange program suspended through June 2022

• Districts can recruit and train students and host families for a 2022-23 exchange in the meantime

• Board reserves the right to review decision at all subsequent meetings
ALLEGATION REPORTING – BE NEUTRAL AND RESPONSIBLE

- Listen attentively and stay calm.
- Assure privacy but not confidentiality.
- Get the facts, but don’t interrogate.
- Be nonjudgmental and reassure.
- Document the allegation.
YOUTH PROGRAM HANDBOOKS
Preventing and Addressing Harassment
ID: E-J0EXXY
Language: English - Duration: 45m - ★★★★★

This course reviews Rotary’s policy on a harassment-free environment. It defines harassment, provides steps for those being harassed, and for those receiving allegations. Take this course to learn how you can create a harassment-free environment in your club.

Updated February 2020
Protecting Youth Program Participants
ID: E-GVZYQ0
Language: English - Duration: 30m - ★★★★★

ABOUT THIS COURSE

Effective youth protection policies may not prevent all incidents, but they can support the young people participating in Rotary programs and reduce negative outcomes. If you're a club president or Rotarian who works with youth in any way, this module will help you to apply and address youth policies in your club or district.

Updated March 2020
2020 YEO VIRTUAL POSTCONVENTION RESOURCES

STRENGTHENING YOUR VOLUNTEER SCREENING AND SELECTION PROCESS
For Rotary Youth Exchange Programs

RESPONDING TO CONCERNS: FROM WARNING SIGNS TO ALLEGATIONS, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN
For Rotary Youth Exchange Programs

2020 ROTARY VIRTUAL CONVENTION
20-26 JUNE

Fostering Safe Environments for Rotary’s Youth
Praesidium in consultation with Rotary International’s Youth Protection Staff
Erica Smith, MSW, Account Manager
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE:
Supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) Exchange Students
DEVELOPING A CRISIS MANAGEMENT PLAN

A crisis management plan is a carefully developed set of protocols designed to help individuals deal effectively with real and perceived emergency situations when they arise. A real emergency is one that poses an immediate danger, while a perceived emergency is a potentially risky situation that may develop into a dangerous situation. It is essential that districts are prepared to respond to both real and perceived emergencies, as either can turn into a crisis situation, posing serious risks to student and volunteer health, safety and security – as well as the district’s reputation.

Learn more about how to get started, consider best practices, and review sample forms.

Getting Started

Best Practices

Sample District Crisis Management Plan

Appendix A – Sample District Contact List and Crisis Notification Protocols

Appendix B – Sample Debriefing Questionnaire
**Youth Protection**

*What do you want to do?*

- [ ] I WANT TO...

- [ ] Facebook
- [ ] LinkedIn
- [ ] Email
- [ ] Print

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**Statement of Conduct for Working With Youth**

Rotary International strives to create and maintain a safe environment for all youth who participate in Rotary activities. To the best of their ability, Rotary members, their partners, and other volunteers must safeguard the children and young people with whom they come into contact and protect them from physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

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**Rotary's approach to preventing abuse**

The safety and well-being of young people and youth program participants are Rotary's highest priority. Our comprehensive approach to youth protection includes:

- No tolerance for abuse or harassment of young people
- Policies that prevent misconduct and outline how to respond to grooming behaviors and abuse that involve youth and other program participants
- Mandatory youth protection training for governors-elect
- A dedicated and trained staff that uses a trauma-informed approach when receiving and responding to reports of sexual abuse or harassment
- A certification process that requires Rotary districts involved in Rotary Youth Exchange to have:
  - Student, family, and volunteer training in abuse prevention
  - Volunteer screening that includes an application, criminal background check, and reference checks
  - A process for reporting allegations of abuse and harassment to Rotary and local law enforcement
  - District-specific youth protection policies
  - On-site evaluations (audits) that are conducted by Rotary staff members

**Youth protection resources for members**

Rotary provides comprehensive resources for clubs and districts that participate in youth programs so they can confidently implement our youth protection policies and act to prevent abuse and harassment:

- [Rotary Youth Protection Guide](#)
- [Protecting Youth Program Participants (online course)](#)
- [Electronic and Online Safety Considerations](#)
- [Developing a Crisis Management Plan](#)
- [Rotary Code of Policies, section 2.1.20.](#)
Submit a youth protection report

The safety and well-being of our young people and youth program participants are Rotary’s highest priority and Rotary takes all youth protection concerns seriously. Should you have questions or concerns about making a report, we encourage you to refer to our [Frequently Asked Questions](#), and you can always contact us via phone or email if you need advice or assistance (see below for more information).

In case of emergency, contact local law enforcement or emergency services immediately.

**Report Online**
Submit a report online in your native language, with the option to report anonymously.

**Call Us**
Call +1 866-976-8279 between 08:00-16:00 Chicago time (UTC-6 or UTC-8) and ask to speak to Rotary’s Youth Protection staff. Our staff members are experienced and trained in receiving reports of abuse or misconduct that involves youth, and each situation will be handled with care and confidentiality. If you call outside of normal business hours, you can leave voicemail for one of our Youth Protection staff.

**Email Us**
Email your questions, concerns, or reports to youthprotection@rotary.org, which will be carefully and confidentially handled by our experienced Youth Protection staff.
ELECTRONIC AND ONLINE SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS
OVERVIEW

• Why is online safety “by design” important to prevention

• What are the key areas to address in both prevention and responding to online safety

• Common threats to online safety

• Tips for updating your policies to address online safety
ONLINE SAFETY “BY DESIGN”

- Select online tools that already have built-in controls for monitoring chats, limiting file sharing, and allow the administrators to establish what participants can and cannot do
- Only participate in activities that are safe, inclusive, and transparent
- Limit activities that require participants to use other tools, like social media, that cannot be closely monitored
PREVENTION

• Establishing boundaries and expectations up-front.

• Clearly communicating acceptable and unacceptable behaviors with participants, families, and volunteers

• Training
RESPONDING

• Spotlight and interrupt inappropriate behavior

• Follow-up with all parties and re-establish expectations and boundaries

• Report any concerning behaviors to Rotary or law enforcement as necessary
COMMON THREATS TO ONLINE SAFETY

• Online grooming
• Cyberbullying
• Reputational risks
• Peer pressure
TIPS FOR UPDATING YOUR POLICIES

• Review your programs and their unique risks

• Discuss how to create programs that include online safety “by design”

• Write down and communicate specific appropriate and inappropriate behaviors

• Develop training materials and a schedule
QUESTIONS?